

Treasury and CBI kept waiting for 3pc drop

Banks rebuff Lawson's call for rates cut

By Peter Rodgers,
City Editor

The main clearing banks yesterday rebuffed the Chancellor's attempt to get base lending rates down 0.5 per cent to 12 per cent. They caused confusion in the City, concern at the CBI and surprise in Whitehall.

The pound continued its rise against a rapidly weakening dollar on the foreign exchanges. It closed just over half a cent higher at \$1.3887 after passing \$1.39 during the day.

The stand-off over base rates came despite Bank of England moves to underpin its decision on Thursday to cut its own dealing rates in the City's money markets by a half per cent.

The Bank marginally shaved some of its rates again as a technicality to consolidate at a level consistent with 12 per cent base rates. The Bank of England does not want any greater reduction than half per cent but was left yesterday afternoon waiting for even that.

The clearing banks' rebuff drew criticism from the Confederation of British Industry, which said: "We are concerned that base rate has not gone down today following the nudges given by the Bank of England. We are still looking

THE government yesterday revealed better than expected inflation figures, showing only a 0.2 per cent price rise in June, the smallest this year, leaving the annual inflation rate unchanged at 7 per cent. One of the main reasons for the Chancellor's hard line on interest rates — until this week — was to keep the pound strong to help inflation to fall later in the year.

Building societies confirmed a pick-up in receipts in the first week of July to over £200 million in line with the £200-million-a-month target. It is the first glimmering of hope for a cut in mortgage rates which would also help to reduce inflation, as would this weekend's move to lower petrol prices.

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for a two-point cut and we hope it will be at least a half per cent on Monday."

NatWest and Barclays, which invariably make the first moves said only that they were keeping their base rates under review. Neither would explain their decision to ignore the Government's clear indication that it wanted a change.

One senior banker said that in spite of the Bank of England's reduction very short term interest rates in the

wider banking markets remained stubbornly high so that his bank would lose money if it reduced base rate immediately. "There was no movement from us for very good commercial reasons," he added.

The Bank of England was also blamed for leaving a small shortage of funds in the banking system. Another banker said: "We are awaiting confirmation of easier trends in the market this week."

These technical explanations are unlikely to ease the irritation in Whitehall, where the Treasury is unable to express its views publicly because the clearing banks are theoretically free to determine their own rates.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, is thought to have ordered the downward shove because of the rapid rise this week in the value of the pound which has reinforced the plans of industry not to let sterling get overvalued.

The employers' organisation returned to the attack last night by pointing out that at the present exchange rate against the German mark Britain is 42 per cent less competitive than in 1975.

The pound did lose against the mark closing 3.5 pence down at DM4.0044 but this is still a high level.

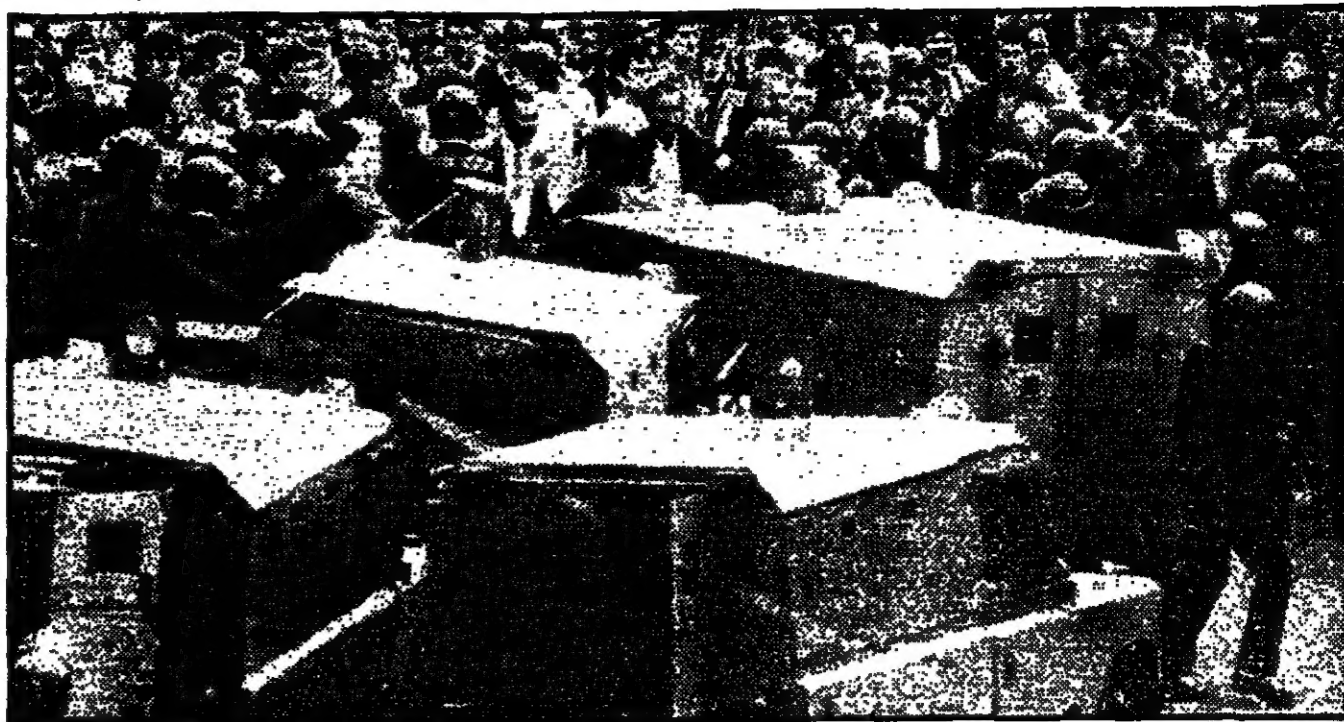
A CBI spokesman said that the recent rapid rise of sterling had made it 14 per cent more valuable against the mark, "which is the currency our members are most worried about."

Even though the pound is up 31 per cent against the dollar since its low point this year, CBI members are less concerned about their competitiveness in the American market.

The CBI said it was also concerned about the volatility of exchange rates which made planning difficult. It called for Britain to become an operational member of the European Monetary System after first cutting interest rates to get sterling down to an acceptable rate against the mark.

The dollar was weak because of evidence of a sluggish American economy contained in US retail sales figures. Nevertheless, in spite of falls against European currencies sterling ended the day unchanged on its Bank of England index of 83.4 per cent of its 1975 value.

The clearing banks' tardiness unsettled the stock market, which had expected a base rate cut. The FT 30 share index was down 3.4 at 826.



THE VIEW FROM OBINS STREET: Police vehicles form a wall to stop the Orangemen

RCs saved from beer and bigotry

From Paul Johnson
in Portadown

A TINY part of Northern Ireland stepped back 16 years yesterday during the triumphant Orange parades celebrating King Billy's victory in 1869.

Obins Street in Portadown, a mile-long nationalist strip in the middle of Loyalist territory, was protected by a tight ring of soldiers and riot police.

Roman Catholic children chanted to the troops, in protest at their rifles and climbed on to the green personnel carriers.

The mothers brought out mugs of tea and plates of sandwiches to make it just

like 1969, when the army came into Northern Ireland to protect the Roman Catholics from Loyalist mobs.

At either end of Obins Street Orangemen, fuelled by bigotry and beer, fought to get past the police and army barricades to exercise what they called their civil rights of being able to march where and when they like in Northern Ireland.

The perversion of Ulster politics was there for all to see. Those waving Union flags and shouting about law and order and loyalty were throwing anything they could get their hands on at the police and soldiers.

At one point in the afternoon, the effect of drink just

beginning to sink in, the several hundred-strong crowd fronted by a pipe and drum band managed a 10-minute hail of stones, bricks and bottles.

There was fighting with the police and with fists shaking in the air, they chanted "SS, RUC". A lull followed, the band struck up God Save the Queen, and the fighting started up again.

There was disorder on the Orange side of the barricades. Mr James Walls, a Democratic Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who believes in hanging and Northern Ireland having its own independent nuclear deterrent, said 15,000 Orangemen could be

summoned within 10 minutes.

His more immediate problem was to find a megaphone.

Attempts to talk to Orange leaders about the demonstration and their anger at being prevented from marching through Obins Street, where their forefathers have walked for more than a century, proved difficult.

Outside Corcoran Orange Hall reporters who approached an old Orangeman with badges of rank on his sash were threatened with a good kicking.

One outburst of particularly furious missile-throwing brought the firing of plastic bullets from the police. Then

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Sterling's strength knocks 6p off petrol

By John Hooper,
Energy Correspondent

BP yesterday led its rivals into the biggest single cut in the price of petrol since the war. The British multinational slashed 6p off the price of a gallon of four star taking it back below the £2 mark.

Within hours, Shell and Esso had followed suit.

From midnight last night the standard price was £1.987p. But in those areas where stations have been offering extra-price petrol, there will be little or no difference because the companies are with-
drawing the subsidies which have enabled their retailers to sell at below the so-called "scheduled price."

Last night's cut was forced on the oil companies by a combination of falling dollar oil prices and the rise in the pound. Oil is priced in dollars, so that if sterling is gaining

the cost of oil goes down for British importers.

Independent chains have been picking up petrol on the Rotterdam spot market at bargain prices and selling it at below the level set by the multinationals, thereby forcing them to cut.

By the time BP made its move yesterday it was providing subsidies for 800 of its 2,600 outlets. A number of MPs have recently joined the motorists' organisations in calling for a cut.

Petrol prices have been on a switchback since the end of last year. They first went through the £2 barrier as a result of the 4p-per-gallon budget increase in March. They fell to 198.4p on March 30, but in a highly controversial move — they were put up again to 204.6p two weeks later.

Laker victims to be paid \$48m

By David Simpson,
Business Correspondent

The 14,000 ticket-holders stranded when Laker Airways went bankrupt three years ago will be fully compensated within the next few weeks.

The company liquidator agreed a \$48 million settlement yesterday with 11 defendants whom he had sued for \$1 billion, including British Airways.

The agreement will not free the way for the delayed privatisation of British Airways as Sir Freddie Laker is refusing to accept an individual compensation offer of \$8 million from the airlines.

The companies were being sued in the United States on the grounds that they allegedly conspired to drive Laker Air out of business. The deal was agreed in Washington after the liquidator, Mr Christopher Morris, met lawyers from the airlines who also included British Caledonian, Pan Am and Lufthansa as well as the plane makers McDonnell Douglas and the McDonnell Douglas Finance Corporation.



Sir Freddie... waiting to see settlement

Sir Freddie, speaking in Miami, would say only: "I could not possibly make any comment until I see all the papers and the facts. It's not something you can shoot from the hip on."

BA is still facing other claims in US courts, including one for \$65 million by Mr Bob Beckman, the Washington lawyer who has represented the liquidator in his claims against

BA and the other international airlines. Mr Beckman has also rejected an \$8 million settlement.

A further claim is a \$327 million suit for damages brought by Lorbho, the international trading group, which formed two unsuccessful travel companies with Sir Freddie after the Skytrain group went bankrupt. BA said yesterday that it had no intention of paying Lorbho a penny.

A BA spokesman said that the main obstacle to the privatisation of the group has now been removed. It is unlikely, however, that the Government can proceed with its planned \$1 billion sale while Sir Freddie's anti-trust case remains outstanding.

The privatisation has already been postponed from this February and is not expected to take place until next spring at the earliest.

Mr Colin Marshall, the chief executive of BA, said last night: "Settlement bears an admission of guilt. BA and other defendants have denied

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Midlands win bid for Olympics

By David Hearst

BIRMINGHAM was last night chosen as the city to make Britain's bid to host the Olympic Games in 1992. The vote of the National Olympic Committee of the British Olympic Association was overwhelming, with 25 votes cast for the city, five for Manchester, and only two for London.

Mr Charles Palmer, chairman of the BOA, said the key factor in their decision was their wish to keep as many of the events as possible on one site, and they were not convinced that the M25 would minimise the problems of crossing London.

Mr Palmer said: "Birmingham was clearly the best of the bids. Then we had to decide if they were worthy to be put forward to the International Olympic Committee selection in October 1986, and it was decided unanimously that they should go forward."

Mr Denis Howell, the former Labour minister of sport who became involved in Birmingham's bid four weeks ago, said he was delighted by the decision and confident that the city could be chosen to host the games.

He said that Birmingham already had nine halls of residence and the National Exhibition Centre, representing £25 million of sporting facilities. He said the city would be worth £1 billion after the Olympic village and superdome stadium for up to 100,000 spectators were built.

It is understood that Birmingham City Council has already agreed £500,000 to allow the winning consortium to mount the challenge, which has to be made by March next year.

Mr Howell said: "We are in touch with the international market and we are absolutely sure that we shall not ask for one penny of public money." He said their intention was to make a profit of £350 million on the games.

Brisbane, Barcelona and Paris are leaders in the race to host the games.

John Rodda, page 13

Joseph blocks new-look deal to give teachers 7.5pc package

By Andrew Monear,
Education Staff

Leaders of the employers, convinced that they have devised a pay package which can crack the five-month teachers' dispute, ran into a Government stone wall yesterday — and cold water from the unions.

The informal proposals came in three stages which must hang together or fall apart at Tuesday's resumed talks in the Burnham negotiating committee.

The Labour-led local authority employers have already overstretched their budgets to frame the offer and can look for no immediate help from Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, who again refused more money to fund an increased 1985 wage deal.

The deal depends on the unions agreeing a new teachers' contract and a package of salary structure reforms tied to the settlement. It will then have to be sold to Sir

Keith in return for the promise of more cash to come next year.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the union leader on Burnham described the figures as "utterly and deliberately misleading" after they had been released by the enthusiastic employers.

Mr Jarvis, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, criticised the acting leader of the management side, Mr John Pearman, for juggling with figures while the conditions have still to be officially tabled.

"Even when they are dressed up in the way Mr Pearman has attempted, the increases the employers are canvassing fall far short of the amount necessary to make a serious start on the restoration of the erosion of teachers' pay levels," he said after a meeting of the NUT executive.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, the deputy general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women

Teachers, said: "As soon as you start involving Sir Keith you make settlement virtually impossible. The figures must be higher and the conditions less stringent."

The head teachers are also worried about the attempt by the employers to tilt the settlement towards lower paid

Mr David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "There is a distinct danger that the heads will be sold down the river."

The local authority leaders remained undismayed. A group of Labour negotiators met Sir Keith yesterday.

Mr Pearman said later: "What we clearly did not get from him was any easing of his negative attitude on money this year. I am not optimistic about that but I have not given up ingenious three-part package amounts to a 7.5 per cent increase over the year —

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tactics switch

MR Ken Livingstone, the GLC leader, is trying to persuade London Labour Party to stop trying to prevent the council's abolition. He wants the party to avoid blame for the chaos he believes will follow. Back page.

Big noises

LIVE Aid, the world's biggest pop concert, links Wembley stadium and Philadelphia with a potential television audience of one billion people today in the hope of raising £10 million for famine relief. Page 2. Leader comment, page 2.

The weather

SUNNY periods, warm. Details, back page.

Britoil disappoints

BRITOL, in which the Government is expected to sell its remaining stake this month, announced a disappointing £91.4 million after-tax profit for the first half of the year. Page 18.

Plomley funeral

MORE than 1,000 people honoured Roy Plomley, presenter of Desert Island Discs, at a memorial service in London yesterday which included a performance of the broadcaster playing the zither. Page 3.

Ex-PC cleared

A FORMER policeman who served four years in goal for murder because police evidence was withheld from his counsel was cleared yesterday. Page 2.

Home truth

A WIFE had no financial interest in her home because she had made no contribution towards paying for it, the Appeal Court ruled yesterday. Page 4.

Deaths blame

ENGLISH society was responsible for the 38 deaths in the riot at the European Cup final in Brussels, because it tolerates violence, the Belgian Interior Minister said yesterday. Page 7.

Dignified exit

THE Cypriot couple who have spent 133 days in a London church, seeking sanctuary from a deportation order, said yesterday that they would leave Britain "with dignity" on Monday. Page 4.

Today

On target

In March 1943 a Mosquito dropped a stick of target indicators above the Krupp factory in Essen. Within 40 minutes more than 600 acres of the plant had been laid waste, and Bomber Command's strike efficiency went up from 5 to 60 per cent.

Third day

Matthew Engel at the Trent Bridge Test. Page 13.

Waiting for Godard

Colin McCabe celebrates next week's television season devoted to the works of the French filmmaker. Page 10.

Monday

FOSTER HOME

Who can cope with wayward teenagers? Polly Toynbee talks to a woman who does.

GLOBAL NIGHTMARE

Do they know it's Wembley? Terry Coleman reports from the Live Aid concert.

BLACK SECTIONS

Has Labour ever really shown itself willing to represent the needs and demands of black people in this society? Stuart Hall argues the case for structural change.

Tuesday

DISAPPEARING ACT

The new man? The anti-sexist male of the late 1970s? Where is he now? Guardian Women investigates.

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You can't switch off the African famine.

You may be able to turn off the TV coverage of the Live Aid concert this weekend, but you certainly can't switch off the African famine.

The response to date has been overwhelming, but more long-term aid of the kind that experienced Save the Children field workers are giving is needed to prevent further tragedy.

Save the Children are now beginning to turn the tide of suffering, so don't switch off the African famine.

You could be switching off the life of a child.

Save the Children African Campaign.

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Signature

Or send through National Giro No. 5173000.

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Address

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17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

The Save the Children Fund, Dept. 513115, 17 Grove Lane, London SE5 8RD.

Legal forces group for London invasion

By Malcolm Dean

The biggest American invasion force since the second world war began arriving in London yesterday for the American Bar Association's annual convention, which starts on Monday.

About 10,000 lawyers with 10,000 spouses, children, other relatives and friends will have arrived by then, filling some 120 hotels and renting 4,000 cars for the five-day conference.

It will be London's biggest convention, earning an estimated \$30 million for the tourism industry. A business session already held in Washington was opened by President Reagan, who welcomed 8,000

delegates to "the last tax-deductible convention of the ABA."

He proposes to end the lawyers' right to deduct professional conference expenses from tax demands, but ABA officials did not look too concerned by this threat yesterday. One official said that the proposals had to get through Congress "where some 50 per cent of the members are lawyers and the other 50 per cent will be hearing from the powerful hotel and restaurant lobbies."

This is the fourth "off-shore" ABA convention to be held in London. The previous three were in 1924, 1957 and 1971 and the only other ever-

seas venue has been Australia.

Compared with the United Kingdom, the United States has three times as many lawyers per head of population. There are about 600,000, with the ABA representing 310,000 of them. Some do not join because there are state and local bar associations below the ABA, which claims to be the world's biggest voluntary professional association.

It has a staff of 800, a budget of \$50 million a year. It leaves fee negotiations to local and state bar associations, concentrating instead on professional issues.

A recent survey by the ABA journal suggested that members' average annual salary was \$97,000, although an am-

cial here suggested that this might have been exaggerated "to impress our advertisers."

Some big firms have up to 80 partners, each earning more than \$200,000 a year.

The UK establishment has been going all out to welcome the Americans. There are to be garden parties on three successive nights in each of the four Inns of Court and Mr John C. Shepherd, the ABA's president, has been made an honorary master of the bench of the Middle Temple and honorary member of the Law Society — the first time anyone is believed to have picked up both distinctions.

Mr Shepherd made much yesterday of the links between UK and the US, noting that

five of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence were benchers of the Middle Temple.

Each delegate will have the choice of 30 plenary sessions and 130 seminars. On arrival they will receive a bundle of papers weighing 6lb and could, if they made the complete round, pick up papers weighing 25lb. For the indefatigable there are another two days of seminars, which will run concurrently in Edinburgh and Dublin at the end of the week.

The conference will open in the Palace of Westminster, where there are 1,800 places for the 10,000 delegates. Mrs Thatcher will address about 5,000 in the Albert Hall on Monday afternoon.

Syria sends senior army men to implement security plan

Beirut names hijackers as 'prelude to prosecution'

Beirut: Lebanon's state radio reported yesterday that Government lawyers were ordered to prosecute the hijackers of a TWA jetliner and for the first time publicly named the men, one of whom killed an American hostage.

It said in its 11 a.m. news broadcast that the names of the hijackers had been "referred to the competent judicial authorities" in the Mount Lebanon part of Beirut, which includes the international airport.

But the report was dropped without explanation from further newscasts. Government sources, who requested anonymity, said this resulted from instructions "from above".

The broadcast came as two senior Syrian army officers left Damascus for Beirut to help implement a new security plan aimed at halting clashes between Muslim militias in west Beirut.

Lebanese Muslim leaders agreed to the plan earlier this week after talks in Damascus with Vice-President Abdel-Hamid Khaddam and other senior officials.

The Syrian Government newspaper, *Tishrin*, said Syria holds the Muslim leaders responsible for implementing the accord without delay. The plan calls for rival militias in mainly-Muslim west Beirut to disarm and disarm.

"Any delay in implementing the agreement is unacceptable," *Tishrin* said. "Syria is determined to defuse the powder keg in Lebanon. It can no longer accept the concept of rebuilding Lebanon on a sectarian basis. This time, a national solution is required."

The Beirut radio broadcast said the names of the TWA hijackers were referred to Mount Lebanon "as a prelude to prosecuting them and to taking adequate legal procedures against them."

Mr Maurice Khawam, prosecutor-general of Mount Lebanon County, where the airport is located, told reporters in a meeting with President Amin Gemayel on Wednesday that his office would move against the TWA hijackers.

The radio named the hijackers as Ali Atwi, Ali Yonis and Ahmed Gharibeh, but said it had no further information. Atwi was arrested at Athens airport before boarding TWA flight 830 on June 26, but was later flown to join his two comrades in Algeria, where the commandeered plane landed twice. The other two men had hijacked the Boeing 727 shortly after take-off from the Greek capital.

Government sources, who asked not be identified, noted that after 10 years of civil war the judiciary — like the Government — functions in name only. Courts handle mainly civil matters. Although alleged criminals are occasionally arrested by police, they are rarely brought before judges or magistrates.

The announcement of legal action against the three men hijackers was welcomed in Washington by the White House spokesman Larry Speakes, as "a step forward."

Asked if the Administration would prefer that the hijack suspects be tried in Lebanon or in the United States, Mr Speakes said the Government has not expressed a preference. — AP/Reuters.

Day of mourning after bombings

KUWAIT: The Government declared a national day of mourning yesterday as a huge manhunt continued for the bombers behind two coffeehouse explosions on Thursday evening.

The Cabinet met in continuous emergency session, and a top security official voiced hope for an early breakthrough in the search, while dismissing reports that arrests had already been made. State-controlled radio and television dropped scheduled programmes and instead broadcast readings from the Koran.

No light has been shed on the identity of the bombers or the motive for the attacks, although *Agence France Presse* in Paris received a claim of responsibility from a caller claiming to represent the "Organisation of Arab Revolutionary Brigades."

The bombs ripped through two seafood restaurants. The daily al-Qabas said naval patrol craft had drawn a tight security net down the 140-mile coastline to help close escape routes. Land border crossings were shut after the blasts. — Reuters.

Kuwait's vigorous democracy earns it a host of enemies

From Jonathan Birchall in Kuwait

"ONLY Kuwaitis go there, with their families," they were after Kuwaitis, one man said yesterday morning as he watched the police picking through the wreckage of wooden benches, smashed hushbubble pipes, scattered dominoes and bloodstains in bombed sea-side coffeehouses.

For Kuwaitis, Thursday night's twin explosions, which left at least 11 dead and almost 90 injured, were the latest and most brutal proof so far that someone is out to get them.

For the coffeehouses are where men go with their families to drink and smoke and chat, especially on a Thursday evening.

Some 100 yards from one of the bombed cafes, a crater in the road marks the spot where, less than six weeks ago, a suicide car bomber rammed the motorcade of Kuwait's Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed, killing four people, but leaving the Sheikh only cut and bruised.

In April a Kuwaiti editor escaped a machine-gun attack outside his newspaper, surviving four bullet wounds. This March an Iraqi diplomat and his son were less lucky, shot dead in their beds in a suburb of Kuwait City.

In December, 1984, a Kuwaiti airliner was hijacked to

Tehran, apparently by Lebanese Shiites; two American passengers were shot and Kuwaiti passengers were singled out with the Americans to be beaten and tortured.

Most, but not all, of Kuwait's political violence can be traced back to December 12, 1983, when a wave of bombs exploded at targets including the American and French embassies and Kuwaiti government institutions, killing six and wounding more than 80.

Soon afterwards, a Kuwaiti security court sentenced 17 Shiites — 13 Iraqis, one Kuwaiti and three Lebanese — for their involvement in the bombings; the only large group of pro-Iranian Shiite terrorists ever successfully apprehended. Three are still under sentence of death.

All were said at the time to be members of Al Dawa al-Islamiya, the Islamic Call Party, a group of pro-Iranian Iraqi Shiites. During the trial Iraqi exiles in Tehran broadcast threats against Kuwait interests "anywhere in the world."

The threats were made good, largely it seems through the Lebanese connection. In the Tehran hijack, three or four hijackers believed to be Lebanese Shiites sought, but failed to get, the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners.

This summer, before the attack on the Emir, a Lebanese Shiite group, holding seven American hostages in the Lebanon against the Kuwaiti rulers that they were running out of patience: the attack was followed by claims of responsibility from the Lebanon.

So far no-one has claimed responsibility for the killings on Thursday, but Western diplomats are looking again to the Shiite connection.

Although Shiite attacks on Kuwait have resulted from the Kuwaiti support for Iraq in the Gulf War, the Kuwaiti authorities have refrained from directly accusing Iraq of organising a terrorist campaign against them.

Unofficially, however, Kuwait officials are said to see Iran's shadow in the attacks; Tehran has yet to return the hijacked Airbus from the December hijacking or to bring the hijackers to trial.

Kuwait has other enemies; with a vociferous elected national assembly and a lively press, both unparalleled in the region, it is easy enough to make them. Most recently there have been exchanges with Syria, heavily criticised during the June attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut.

The April assassination attempt on the newspaper editor, Ahmed Jarrah, has been attributed to Syrian-backed

agents. One Kuwaiti listed Iraq, Iran, Libya, Syria and the Lebanon as possibly behind Thursday's bombing.

With an expatriate population making up 60 per cent of its 1.6 million people, Kuwait is particularly exposed to external subversion. The Thursday bombs are an acute embarrassment to the Government, coming so soon after the attack on the Emir. That was followed by house-to-house searches and unobtrusive deportations, which Western diplomats put at least 500.

Kuwait has one of the highest ratios of police to population in the world, equipped with the latest in IBM computers. But, with exposed and easily traversable frontiers and a transient population, Kuwait realises that complete security is not possible.

Evidence of Kuwaiti complicity in the violence is limited: Kuwait's Shiite population, making up an estimated 25 to 30 per cent of the total, has its grumbles but is normally emphatically Kuwaiti first and Shiite second. In the short term, at least, Kuwait's expatriates must stay. Kuwaitis, meanwhile, so long sheltered from personal political violence, are discovering the risk of maintaining an independent political line. So far, despite the cost, there is no sign of their giving that up.

Clashes over UN women's congress

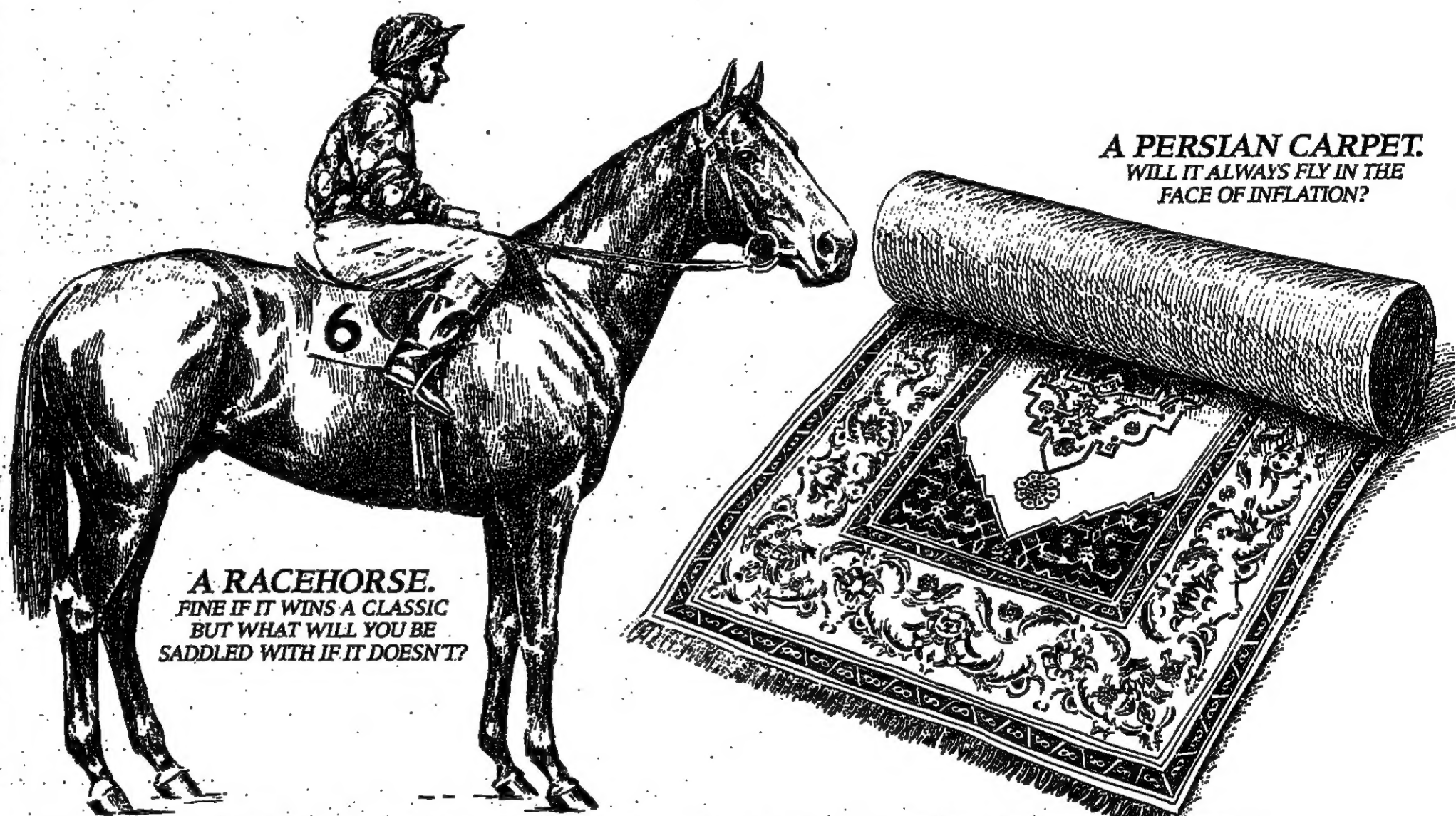
Nairobi: A Palestine Liberation Organisation official said yesterday that Washington was using "intellectual terrorism" to influence a forthcoming UN conference on women in favour of Israel and South Africa.

Mr Salman el Herfi, African affairs adviser to the PLO leader, Mr Yasser Arafat, said: "The United States wants to impose its point of view, while saying at the same time the conference should not be politicised. This in itself is politics."

Several PLO officials are in Nairobi for a meeting of non-governmental women's organisations in preparation for a UN conference which starts on July 15 to review the achievements of the UN Women's Decade.

President Reagan's daughter, Maureen, who arrived yesterday as head of the US delegation, did not comment on the political skirmishing.

The US Assistant Secretary of State for International Organisations Affairs, Mr Gregory Newell, had said earlier that Washington wanted to prevent any "extraneous politicisation" in Nairobi and that the issue of Palestinian women should not be "isolated." — Reuters.



A RACEHORSE.
FINE IF IT WINS A CLASSIC
BUT WHAT WILL YOU BE
SADDLED WITH IF IT DOESN'T?

A PERSIAN CARPET.
WILL IT ALWAYS FLY IN THE
FACE OF INFLATION?

Gulf raids threaten Iran's new lifeline

Bahrain: Iraq yesterday attacked a Turkish supertanker in the Gulf, the second within a week, threatening an Iranian oil export shuttle operation from Kharg Island to the lower reaches of the waterway, shipping sources in the region said.

In Baghdad, a military spokesman said warplanes had hit a "large naval target" south of Kharg and reported a ground attack on Iranian positions in the Gulf war's central sector.

The shipping sources said the oil-laden 112,000 tonne M. Ceyhan was ablaze after being hit in the engine room on the starboard side by a missile.

Dense black smoke was hanging over the burning vessel, but all crew members had

been saved from life rafts by tug at the scene.

The M. Ceyhan is the sister ship of the M. Vatan, which was crippled earlier this week about 100 miles south of Kharg, Iran's main terminal in the north-east of the Gulf, after loading with 350,000 tonnes of oil.

Their Istanbul-based owners said both ships had been leased to Iran in April for six months to help shuttle oil from Kharg Island, inside an Iraqi-imposed war zone, to a makeshift export terminal off Sirri Island, 330 miles to the south-east.

A military spokesman in Baghdad said yesterday that Iraqi troops had mounted a lightning ground attack on Iranian positions in the central sector of the battlefield. — Reuters.

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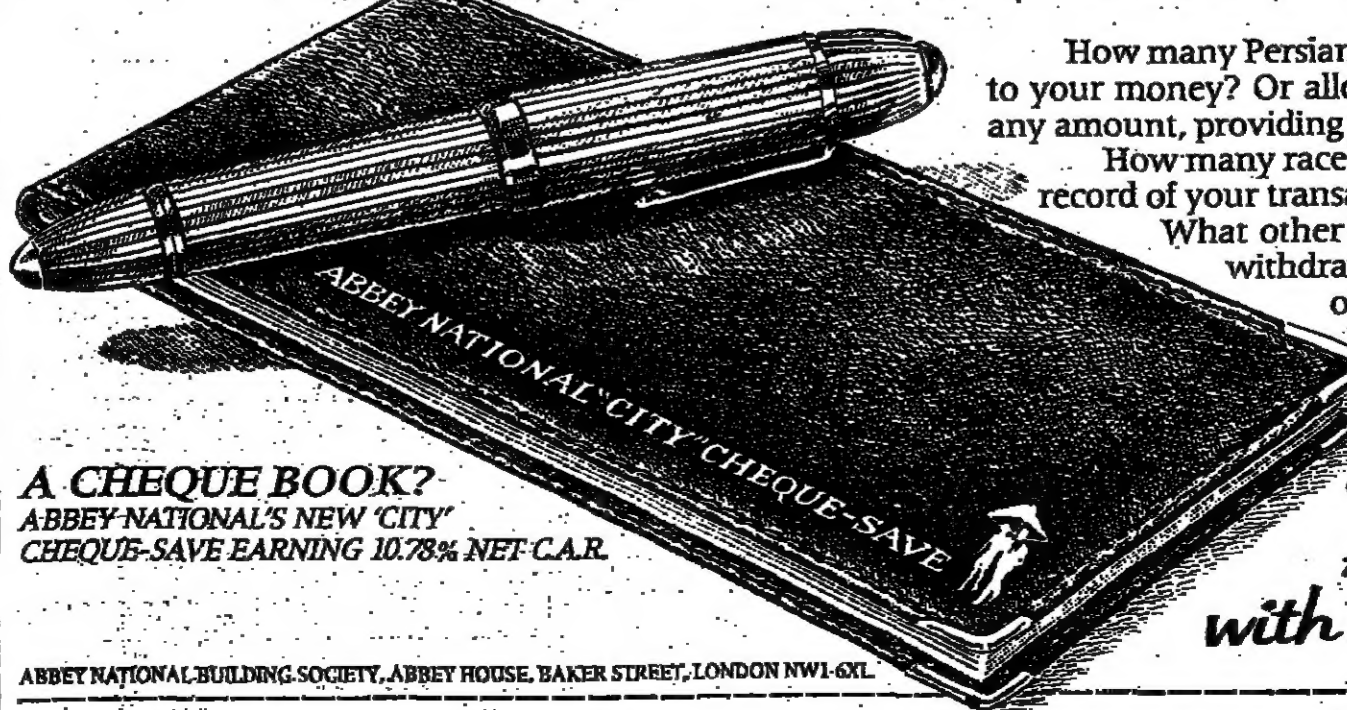
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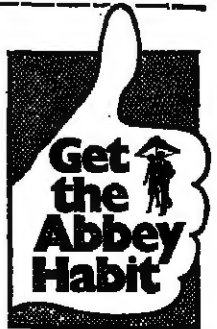
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NEWS
IN BRIEF37 boat
people
returned

A SOVIET ship returned 37 "boat people" to Vietnam after picking them up in South China Sea last month, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday. The Soviet vessel Fokst picked up the Vietnamese in mid-June and since then its whereabouts were unknown to the UNHCR. But a UNHCR spokesman said diplomatic channels had now established that the "boat people" had been returned to Vietnam. The Fokst was heading for the Soviet Far East island of Sakhalin from Vung Tau, southern Vietnam, when it sent a message to the Soviet ship saying it had picked up 17 children, 16 men, and four women. — Reuters.

Rebels accused

PEACE talks in Bhutan on the Sri Lankan ethnic crisis will adjourn today with little progress made on Tamil demands for autonomy, the Press Trust of India said yesterday. PTI quoted informed sources as saying that the Sri Lankan government delegation yesterday accused a guerrilla group at the talks of being responsible for an attempt to assassinate president Junius Jayewardene. — Reuters.

Envoys accepted

THE US Senate last night cleared by voice vote 24 of President Reagan's nominees for ambassadorships and State Department posts which have been held up by the Republican Senate. Jesse Helms, the North Carolina Senator, agreed to permit passage of the group, but still blocked four others he said he wanted to get recorded votes on. — Reuters.

Treason charges

A TAIWANESE businessman will face treason charges after a possible death sentence after he tried to form a separatist political party, the Taiwan garrison command said yesterday. Hsu Chao-hung, aged 44, was arrested and charged this week on his return from Japan. — Reuters.

Who's for golf?

THE Peking Golf Club, China's fourth and biggest, was established yesterday, but with membership fees set at more than \$14,000, few Chinese citizens are likely to join. The 36-hole course is being built by a Japanese company 30 miles north-east of Peking. — Reuters.

600 arrested

PAKISTANI authorities arrested about 600 people and seized large quantities of arms in the western city of Quetta following Shiite unrest in which at least 27 people were killed, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Hussein talks

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan flew to Britain yesterday for meetings with Mrs Thatcher, the state radio reported. Jordan is believed to be preparing to buy about \$300 million worth of military goods from Britain. — AP.

Strike off

SPAIN'S air traffic controllers yesterday called off a strike scheduled to take place each weekend from July 14 to August 31, a spokesman for the Spanish Confederation of Air Traffic Controllers said. — Reuters.

Drought appeal

ALGERIA has appealed for international aid for 40,000 refugees fleeing drought conditions in Chad and Niger, according to the UN Disaster Relief Organisation. — AP.

New leader

A SPECIAL Congress of Tanzania's only political party is to nominate a candidate tomorrow to succeed Julius Nyerere as president, the government-owned Daily News said yesterday. — AP.

Police injured

Santiago: A bomb seriously injured three policemen yesterday during anti-government protests on the 14th anniversary of Chile's copper mines. The bomb exploded next to a police bus in a southern Santiago suburb. — Reuters.

Oldest emperor

Tokyo: Emperor Hirohito today becomes the oldest monarch ever to reign in Japan. The 84-year-old emperor has ruled Japan for 58 years. — Reuters.

Looking in

Boris Becker's victory in the Wimbledon men's singles final was seen by an average audience of 11.9 million on BBC 2 last Sunday, the BBC says.

Minister's friend tells him to
'do the honourable thing'Embattled
Belgian hits
at 'English
violence'

From Derek Brown
in Brussels

The Belgian Interior Minister, Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, who is fighting for his political life in the wake of the Heysel football massacre in May, yesterday hit back at his critics with a blistering attack on violence in English society.

The riot at the May 29 European cup final, which led to 33 deaths, was, he said, caused by the aggression of a band of Liverpool supporters who attacked Italian Juventus fans.

"They did not batter their victims to death, but they provoked collectively their violent deaths," he told the Belgian Parliament.

But a key coalition partner, the floor leader, Mr Robert Henrion, said in a scathing speech that he would vote to adopt a motion of inquiry report critical of Mr Nothomb, and urged the minister "to do the honourable thing".

The inquiry had revealed casualness, confusion, and lack of preparation by the authorities, Mr Henrion said.

The massacre, when a wall collapsed under the weight of panicking spectators, was "the collective responsibility of English society, which tolerates this violence," Mr Nothomb wished to channel it without wishing to eliminate it, and in which a certain number of clubs accept the violence as an element in the sporting scene and a trade mark of their clubs.

Mr Nothomb was speaking at the start of a parliamentary debate crucial to his own career and to the prospects of the centrist coalition Government.

The mainly Socialist Opposition is expected to press a confidence vote when the debate ends later today or tomorrow.

If the verdict goes against Mr Nothomb, the Christian Demo-

crat-Liberal Government could be brought down, five months earlier than it had hoped to go to the country.

Mr Nothomb, fiercely criticised by a parliamentary committee a week ago, gave no hint that he had considered voluntary resignation. He said he approached the debate "with serenity".

The minister gave a detailed account of the division of responsibility for pre-match preparation and maintenance of order. He pointed out that the Brussels burgomaster, the provincial governor, the football authorities, and others, all had a role, as well as himself.

He stressed that the national gendarmerie, for which he has a special responsibility, had been present at Heysel in sufficient strength. The tactics and direction of the force, rather than numbers, had been strongly attacked in the parliamentary report.

He said that in any future matches where even greater numbers were needed — 2,300 gendarmes were on duty at Heysel at the height of the trouble — he would prefer to ban the games outright, "because we are not in a contest between supporters and gendarmes, nor between supporters, but in theory in a match between football teams. It must remain that way, and I repeat I don't want to transform Belgium or Brussels, even for a single day, into a police state."

Mr Nothomb bitterly condemned the black marketers who sold tickets to Italian fans for a section of the ground next door to the Liverpool supporters and supposedly reserved for Belgian spectators.

"I hope that in their anonymity they bitterly regret today the profits that they made on the black market," he said, "paid by the blood of others."

Mitterrand's powers
disputed by right

From Paul Webster
in Paris

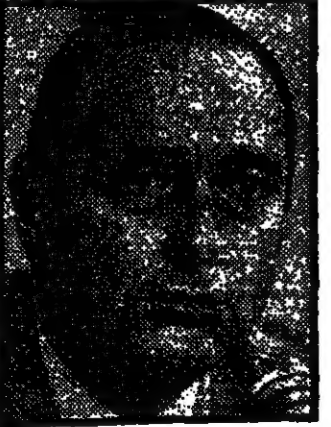
Opposition leaders have angrily rejected President Mitterrand's claim that he would be entitled to retain control of foreign affairs in the event of a leftwing defeat, in general elections in March, reminding him of his own 20-year crusade against presidential "special areas."

Mr Mitterrand, who said that it would be equivalent to a coup if a rightwing parliament sought to take over the presidency's "special areas" of foreign affairs, will explain his attitude in a broadcast tomorrow to mark Bastille Day.

A casual talk to presidential lobby correspondents this week on "cohabitation" with an eventual rightwing parliament has succeeded in uniting the three main opposition factions while inspiring a wave of ridicule from the Communist Party who accuse him of defeatism.

The President, who has so

Mr Jacques Chirac



far managed to conduct the debate on cohabitation as a method of splitting the right, now finds himself on the defensive for tomorrow's broadcast.

Mr Mitterrand has been forced to consider the possibility of sharing power with a rightwing parliament following the Socialist Party's estimate that they could lose at least 100 of their 289 National Assembly seats next year and their current overall majority.

As the communists, who pulled out of government last year, have announced that their priority is now to bring down Mr Mitterrand because of a policy swing to the right, Socialists are unlikely to get more than 25 per cent support in Parliament even under new proportional representation voting.

The three main opposition leaders — Mr Jacques Chirac and Mr Raymond Barre — let their views be known through associates rather than replying directly to Mr Mitterrand.

Mr Giscard has been in favour of cohabitation until the presidential elections in 1988 but Mr Jean Francois-Poncet, his friend and former foreign affairs minister, said there was no way of separating home and foreign affairs. They were closely linked, he said, by "European agreements, currency and the economy in general." The chairman of Mr Giscard's UDF movement, Jean-Claude Gaudin, said that "if we win, it will be our policies which will be applied in every area."

A spokesman for Mr Barre, who is against cohabitation, said that the President was "backing into a bunker" by attributing prerogatives to himself.

Kohl promises wine inquiry

From Anna Tomforde
in Bonn

THE WEST GERMAN authorities are facing mounting criticism for their failure to warn the public against the consumption of Austrian wine doctored with an anti-freeze ingredient to enhance its sweetness and alcohol content.

As importers continued to cancel orders from Austria of the 17 wines in question, Chancellor Kohl yesterday promised his Austrian counterpart, Mr Fred Sinowatz, a thorough investigation into why it took the West German authorities more than three months to react to the scandal.

It became known yesterday that importers in the Rhineland-Palatinate, Chancellor Kohl's own state, knew as early as April that large amounts of the Austrian imports had been treated with

the chemical diethylene-glycol.

The state's wine ministry even asked the Federal Health Office in May to determine whether 0.5 grammes of the chemical per litre of wine were "acceptable." It was told that most of the hundreds of thousands of litres brought here by tankers and bottled in West Germany had already been withdrawn from trading.

It also emerged that similar early warnings were received in other states, but the information was not passed on to the Bonn Health Ministry or other central institutions.

While bureaucratic attitudes were given yesterday as the most likely answer to the delayed reaction, there is also some suspicion that importers of the extremely cheap wines did not want to have their business spoiled, and that the extent of the

US still
rules out
political
killings

From Michael White
in Washington

THE White House last night indignantly denied as "absolutely outrageous and utterly false" suggestions that it was contemplating lifting a nine-year-old ban on assassination as an instrument of official policy. But officials were encouraging the belief that the US response to the Beirut hijacking may be a "surgical" military strike against terrorist bases.

At least two independent news sources, including NBC News, claimed overnight that unidentified Administration sources had acknowledged that the lifting of the 1976 ban on assassination — imposed in the wake of CIA scandals — was "under serious review" as part of the policy options urgently being examined.

A more cautious account in the Washington Post spoke of military officials pinpointing potential targets, and of President Reagan's conviction that military force should be an element in the eventual response to the holding of 39 TWA hostages for 17 days and the murder of the navy diver Robert Stethem.

Officials now say that a consensus has been reached at the White House that "we're going to have to hit back at the terrorists" in what Vice-President Bush this week called "as surgical as possible a fashion without being an element in the overall world opinion."

The confusion in Lebanon, and the ambiguous role of Syria, makes this a near impossibility, which might explain why some officials are willing to contemplate what NBC called "the use of military commando teams to carry out executions, instead of the CIA."

Although administration sources emphasise the importance of retaliation being in keeping with American values, some observers have likened the current debate to that which followed the bombing of the marine barracks in Beirut in 1983, after which a covert CIA exercise to train counter-terrorists in Lebanon was approved. The war was terminated by a President Reagan, after a freedom bombing killed 50 innocent people, and the killing of 241 marines remains unavenged.

Politically, the President is under intense pressure from opponents to act as tough as he has been talking. Mr Norman Podhoretz, the neo-conservative pundit, has called him "a crippled hawk."

Abortions
legalised

From Jane Walker
in Madrid

Abortion became legal in Spain yesterday after months of bitter legal and political wrangling.

The new legislation permits abortion for women who become pregnant following rape, when there is a physical defect, or in the opinion of two doctors, there is a grave danger to the mental or physical health of the mother.

The bill was introduced by the Socialist Government shortly after it came to office at the end of 1982 and was bitterly opposed throughout its entire passage.

After the bill was approved last year its passage was blocked by an appeal to the highest legislative court in a final attempt to thwart the measure the Opposition has been staging a campaign to persuade doctors to refuse to perform abortions.

A leading feminist lawyer Ms Cristina Alberdi, expressed satisfaction yesterday with the decision. She said: "We are very pleased because it really is as liberal as the laws in many other European countries."

The scandal coincides with charges of fraud and breach of wine standards brought against the honorary president of the West German Wine Growers Association, Mr Werner Tyrell, by the State Prosecutor in Mainz yesterday. He is suspected of having added sugar to nearly 80,000 litres of wine to improve its quality.

The authorities in the Rhineland-Palatinate are investigating a further 1,000 wine-growers and bottlers for the same offence.

Pastora defiant as bases are lost

Advance of Sandinistas leaves Arde guerrillas without food or ammunition

From Tony Jenkins
in Sarapiquí, Nicaragua

THE white-painted sign read "Welcome to Free Nicaragua" — ironically the same greeting as the Sandinistas used. But this was the Sarapiquí base, headquarters for Commander Zero's Arde guerrillas who are fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas.

A two-hour boat trip through lush scenery had brought us to Sarapiquí. It stands on the banks of the muddy San Juan river which marks the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica. A scurry calmly took our passports to be checked by his chief, Julio the Moustache. The Nicaraguan flag hung happily from a tall flag pole while the guerrillas swayed lazily in hammocks drinking cola.

Yet the tranquility masked Arde's desperate position. Commander Zero (real name Eden Pastora) emerged from an urgent meeting with his High Command and exploded: "The CIA is making war on us. Here we are fighting an atrocious war, people are dying daily and no one knows about it. The CIA is blocking the information. The CIA war could lead us to make a political agreement with the government in Managua."

Arde had controlled the San Juan since Pastora first started fighting his former revolutionary colleagues in April, 1983. But in the past six weeks the Sandinistas have recaptured more than 40 miles of the river and overrun five of Arde's eight bases. Sarapiquí itself will probably fall in the next few weeks.

On the Costa Rican side of the river we had found 27 young guerrillas, two of them with shrapnel wounds, who had deserted this morning. "We have no food, no medicine, no bullets," one had said. "What's the point in staying? The commander knows this, he sent us over in an Arde boat. The Costa Rican Civil Guards were ferrying them to refugee camps."

Nevertheless, Commander Zero is still defiant. "We may lose the battle of the Rio San Juan, but we will win the war. But at the same time he says he is prepared to offer the Sandinistas an unconditional ceasefire. "I could even fly to Managua to see what they have to offer." Yet he admits that if the Sandinistas refuse to negotiate, he will have no option but to declare a unilateral ceasefire.

The Commander does not understand why his fortunes are so low. He believes the Sandinistas and the Reagan Administration have reached a secret agreement and that rightwing millionaires in the US have been ordered not to fund him.

But as he warned to his subjects it became obvious why his former backers find it difficult to take him seriously. "They attack me for my success with women, out



Commander Zero — Eden Pastora — at his base camp: "It is interesting that Christ ended on the cross and that they tried to assassinate me"

of jealousy because they are all queer and I can make love to their women."

Commander Zero reminisces about the days "before I broke with the Communists. Until then I was the bravest, the most patriotic, the most democratic and the most loyal."

"Always remembering the distance that separates us, let's remember they called Christ a witch and a madman. It is interesting that Christ ended on the cross and that they tried to assassinate me."

Eden Pastora became arguably the best known Sandinista fighter when he led a daring raid to seize the National Palace in August, 1978, during the war to overthrow the dictator Somoza. He is convinced he retains popular support.

"Our strength is in the justice of our cause, it is in the troops of the Sandinista Popular Army and the militias, who are not Communists. It is in the people of Nicaragua who are truly revolutionary."

He is a man who has al-

ways enjoyed the romanticism attached to the guerrillas. He happily uses phrases such as "We have replaced money with mystique." When asked if he sees himself as the Che Guevara of the eighties, he roars with laughter, but he has no time for conventional politics. He dismisses the domestic opposition to the Sandinistas. "How have they suffered? There is only one way and that is to risk your life."

His money problems would be resolved if he agreed to unite with the main CIA-backed counter-revolutionary army, the FDN. The FDN says that in the past Pastora has been denied to be made Commander-in-Chief of any unified military force, a demand which they have rejected.

Pastora himself claims that he has not been invited to join the FDN. He says that he would need guarantees. "It is a moral and ideological problem. We are truly Sandinista, truly revolutionary, truly democratic. This sort of talk has worried the conservative FDN in

the past, yet Pastora has not toned down his language. He quotes Marx and says: "I am not anti-Marxist."

We were sitting on the grass on the edge of a huge bomb crater left by a Sandinista aerial bombardment. Pastora, in his freshly laundered jungle greens, said: "They'll be back, but we are not desperate. Not even death is desperate for us and we will never surrender."

He took us to listen to a radio report from one of his field commanders. "Two probably killed this morning, comandante," the man said. "Good, good, let them advance. They are just getting bogged down and giving us more targets. Keep your morale high, Hermano, our cause is just."

As he led us to our boat the comandante coyly said: "The number of sons I have is a state secret. But I calculate roughly 22, here is one," and he put his arm around a young guerrilla. "Tell the world about us," he said and turned to give instructions to one of his young field commanders.

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1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1997, 34, 1, 1-14.

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Brian Crowther on the son who came back from the dead

Hi Mum!

FOUR YEARS have passed, yet memory (which I curse at times) restores and recreates the events of that fateful day. In our quiet, solid terrace house, we prepared tea on a sunlit Saturday afternoon. "Shall we call him in?" someone asked, but it was a cold salad, so we did not. He was playing with friends. They were on their bikes. We had taken such extraordinary care over the years to protect our children...

For all that our terrace is quiet, some fifty yards away is one of the busiest roads in the city. New to the noise and bustle of traffic in a large conurbation after twenty years in the relative calm of the west of Scotland, we were making the necessary adjustments.

Outside the house, movement of people, agitated voices. Why did my wife, my daughter, and I rush out, join them, and run along the terrace to the main road? To this day I do not know. On the road, a small, small, small knot of people, and on the road, a small crumpled body. As if in slow motion, we pushed through them, my wife and I. It was our youngest son, 13-year-old Neil. Dark red blood was pulsing from a wound at the top of his head. He was quivering, and moaning softly. A middle-aged man, very agitated, the wheezing noise of his family and of close friends, and his own sturdy health and youthful resilience.

Eventually he came home — earlier than anticipated because he was released from hospital and convinced the authorities that we could care for him. Anyway, Neil wanted very much to come home. We still did not know what we had left of the bright and athletic young son whose future had been so promising until his terrible accident. For a while we devoted our lives to his recovery. Neil was engaged to the background. Eventually he returned to school, after a plastic plate had been fitted over the hole in his head. Long sessions continued with physiotherapists, paediatricians and clinical psychologists, all of which contributed to Neil's steady progress.

Our son may not now go to university. He struggled to take some O levels at a college of further education last year and obtained a couple of good passes. He has taken a few more O levels this year, and if things work out he will think about trying for two A levels next year. He is no longer the exceptionally bright and athletic adolescent he was. But he is no less intelligent, no less sensitive, and he has not lost his keen sense of humour, in spite of the loss of a few million brain cells.

Each morning as I go to collect my Guardian from the newsagent, I walk past the very road where his life spilled out on to the unyielding surface. As I compete against him at snooker and table tennis, or play football or cricket with him in the garden, I listen with him to Bach, Vivaldi, Rodrigo or The Who, and see him gently smiling at me, I could weep with happiness. For my beloved young son Neil, who almost died, is alive.

In intensive care, we saw our young son for the first time since the accident. He was almost unrecognisable, his head grotesquely swollen.

After a brain scan, the surgeon decided to operate. "I am not God," he said, and made no promises. We agreed to allow the use of Neil's organs for transplant purposes, should he die, and for all that this offer is consistent with our deeply held beliefs, we did not understand how we were able to assent then.

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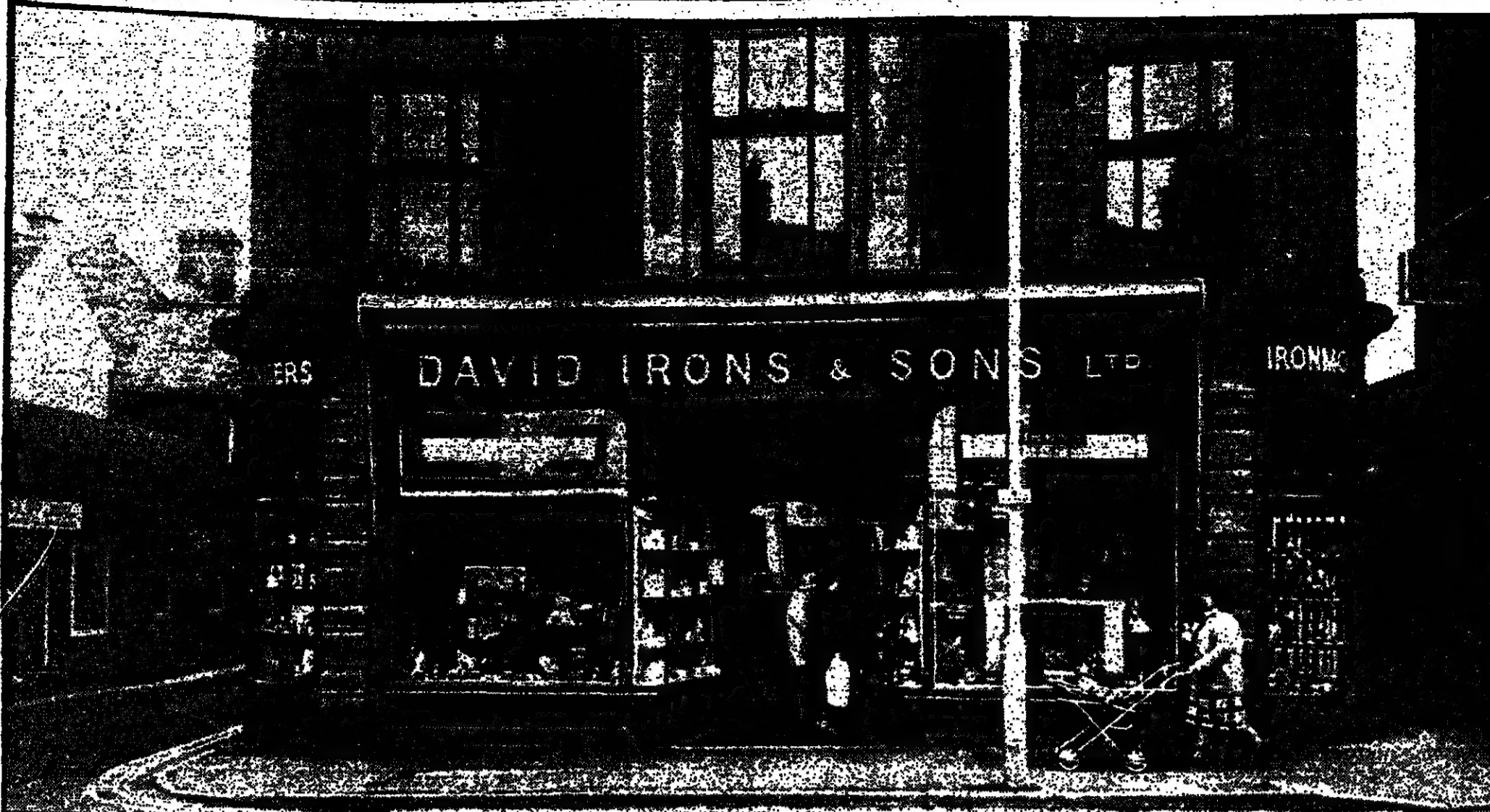
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'You can tell from the balance of the books who's been in government,' says Michael Irons, 'and we do far better under Labour. Everything they do's wrong but business booms.'

After the revolt of the Brecon voters, Lindsay Mackie reports from Forfar on the desertion of more of the Government's natural supporters — the shopkeepers.

THE HEADLINES have died down. "Government in rates row" has been replaced by "Government in confidence crisis", and the media caravan has moved on from the tumult caused by this year's rates revaluation in Scotland.

But the impact of the row in Scotland has not died away. The announcement by the Secretary of State for Scotland, George Younger, that £20 million worth of rate rebate was to be made available for those whose rateable value has gone up by more than three times their 1984/5 valuation has calmed some of the anger, but the long term questions that have been raised still require answers.

Much was made of the effect of the revaluation on the Government's electoral chances in Scotland. The natural constituents of this Government — the small traders and business people — would they desert? Would the Government's 21 seats in Scotland be decimated? After Brecon, anything seems possible.

But turn the question on its head — what will become of these natural allies of the Government, is their own future imperilled? — and you get nearer the present preoccupations of the Scottish boroughs where the small traders and business people are largely to be found.

Forfar, once upon a time the seat of Scottish monarchs and parliament, now a market town that still maintains an air of prosperous solidity, it has 12,500 inhabitants, a Tory MP, a booming textile factory, some light industry, and hundreds of small businesses. It regularly saves more than most other Scottish towns, its football team was recently promoted to the First Division, and competition seems to be based into its life since there are few multiple stores here, only a handful of national chains, the rest being businesses that in many cases have been handed on in the

family since the nineteenth century. Walk along Castle Street, take a stroll up East High Street, West High Street, and there is a distinctive air about the place. Here are shops, the names of whose fascias correspond to the people working behind the counter.

There is Dalgety the kilt maker, Jarvis the draper and outfitter, Saddler the baker, Caird the chemist, Colin Smith the electrician, Irons the ironmonger and agricultural purveyor, Laura Small the confectioner and cake maker, Main the chemist and photographic supplier, Neil Robertson the printer and stationer, Guild the shoe-shop, and Thompson electrical supplier. Even the stiff language of the 1983 town plan, piloted by the Angus district council, indicates an unusual stability in Forfar's way of life over the past 100 years when it points out that "with the exception of some replacement shop fronts at

ground floor level, there has been comparatively little change to properties along the main streets."

But the revaluation has created a kind of communal depression in Forfar. Michael Irons, joint owner with his brother of the ironmongers' shop built by their grandfather in 1840 in the centre of the town, says: "The revaluation was horrible, and even with a rebate we'll be paying 50 per cent more (from £4,500 to £6,800) but we've no option but to stagger on. What else can we do? We have no option, but we still can't get over it."

Charles Jarvis, secretary of the shopkeepers' association and in charge of Jarvis Bros, drapers and outfitters, founded by his grandfather in 1823, says the same six businesses have shut down in Forfar's retail trade in the last six months, there are a lot of empty properties, the people coming into them are attracted to the big shopping centres, based outside the town.

For the most part, "But a lot of retail businesses are run not for financial profit, but because it's what people are used to, it's what they like doing, and it's what their families did before them." These are not ruthless financial equations. The businesses now, clobbered, like Jarvis Bros with a 60 per cent increase in rates, even with the Younger rebates, manage to employ quite a lot of people. Jarvis has 11 staff, Irons have 12, including an apprentice taken on last year, Jack Dalgety, in the 123-year-old firm he runs with his brother Alan. Jarvis has six.

"In an area like this there's a finite amount of money," Jack Dalgety says. "We're not getting more for our massive increases in rates, no more services, it's as if we're being asked just to pay to work in the buildings where our jobs are."

Michael Small, maker of cakes, tiffins, biscuits, and a travelling salesman and two

relatives in his tiny Castle Street shop, expresses something of the powerlessness of the small retailer bombarded with directives from the layers of Scottish local government, the district and the region, never mind the rates assessor. "You don't seem to have peace to be the same from one year to the next." Some years ago Forfar was covered in a maze of yellow lines, and the great plait of the shopkeepers ever since has been that business has nosedived.

But to whom do they complain? The region, in charge of traffic, allows Forfar one councillor. "Before regionalisation in 1973, you had the town council and all they were interested in was Forfar. Now the regional council treats the little boroughs the same as Dundee, the big city," says Alan Ducat, the local editor of the Forfar Herald. Oddly, for one so young (26), he puts Forfar's decline from a bustling market town to a borough fearful

for its future down to the Beeching inspired closure of the railway station in the 1960s. David Irons says the life draining of Forfar began with the abolition of the ancient town council in 1973.

Andrew Welsh, the energetic Scottish National Party provost of Angus district council, puts the blame wholly on the government. Angus had been a model council before revaluation, he says, cutting spending by 4 per cent, looking forward to offering a modest cut in the rate. Then revaluation was launched. "And now, even before we spend a penny for next year, we know that we're going to lose an equivalent of a rate cut of £2 a week because of the government cutting rate support grant."

The provost says he loves the system of the Scottish boroughs, the way they provide safe, enterprising, supportive communities for their citizens. "We wanted to keep rates down because of these commercial retailers who fill a great part of a sound economy. But now, with revaluation and government action, the heart is being knocked out of the local community."

The great thing about being a member of a long established commercial community such as Forfar's is that it gives a sense of perspective, and a bit of humour. "You can also tell from the balance of the books who's been in government," says Michael Irons, "and we do far better under Labour. They do everything wrong, but business booms."

"We've had window tax, and rates and regionalisation, and God knows what else," says Jack Dalgety, standing among the great bales of tartan, the musquash sporrans, and the ladies' apparel "and we're always managed somehow. But there are signs in Forfar, as in the other dour small boroughs like Forfar, that the struggle to retain a healthy small town is becoming insupportable."

Genius not without profit in his adopted country

SCUNTHORPE POLICE, it was reported, are looking for a prankster who filled the town hall's answering machine with 24 hours of Handel's Messiah. Some questions remain unanswered. Why Scunthorpe? Why the town hall? And most important of all, why Messiah?

Leaving aside 'Arnoldian' speculation about the need to bring sweetness and light to the burgesses of Scunthorpe, we turn to Handel's masterpiece. And the simple fact is that if you are going to clog up the town hall tapes with a great choral masterpiece, it has to be Messiah. For Messiah stands alone, universally loved; it crosses rigid musical demarcation lines and fascinates both the ardent but not particularly talented amateur and the most dedicated scholar of the da capo and the double dot.

And why, by the way, do the Proms open on Friday, in Handel's tercentenary year, with the Mozart version sung in German when we have only lately been sold the joys of authenticity? What next — Ebenezer Prout?

If they had been answering machines in Scunthorpe 100 years ago, Mendelssohn might have stood a chance with Elijah. But never Bach. The Passions, and particularly the serious, too complex, the English, like their masterpieces straight, complexity is fine but it must know its place.

R. A. Streetfield, writing in 1968, with wondrous precision, knew why Handel, rather than Bach was more suited to the Scunthorpe Passion: "Bach's St. Matthew Passion is only a work of art

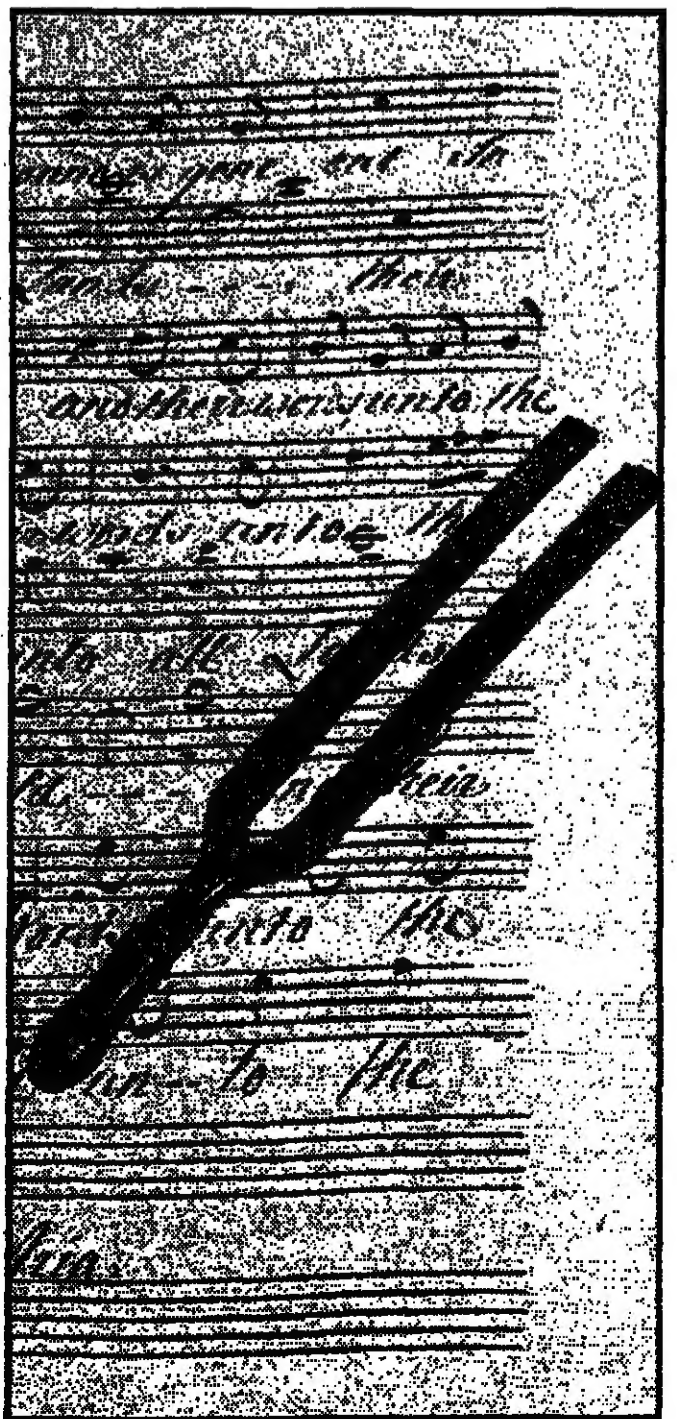
by accident. It was primarily written for edification, and edification, however excellent a thing in itself, has nothing to do with art, though art is often compelled to be its handmaid. Bach's passion is a church service, Handel's Messiah is a poem. Bach deals with facts, Handel with ideas."

That last sentence is suspect, but Streetfield was on the right lines. The Victorians just before him spent long hours pondering the popularity of Messiah, and asking themselves (since they were Victorians) whether it was morally right to enjoy it so much.

Joseph Bennett, writing in the Musical Times in 1893, thought he had the answer: "We are never able to get on square and fair terms with the secret of art which is great and noble and also popular. The condition is almost paradoxical and is almost difficult of clear explanation."

But it may be useful to consider that Handel's art was never in excess of its purpose. Handel, with unerring tact, he went to his object by the most direct route and in the simplest manner. There is no mistaking him. He never leads us into a fog of doubt, and the road through any one of his oratorios is a course of straight and luminous that the wayfarer man, though a fool, cannot err therein. The average mind appreciates a style which is readily intelligible and obviously sincere."

Messiah is the masterpiece for the average mind. The appealing paradox of Messiah (as with much of Shakespeare) is that it manages to be both readily intelligible and obviously sincere."



A tuning fork and a score in Handel's own hand: relics in the possession of the Thomas Coram Foundation in London.

The London Proms open on Friday with an insult to the tercentenary of George Frederic Handel. David Ward makes amends.

money for a school, a teacher, and the relief of poverty in his parish. But he also had a dream of a new collegiate foundation with a huge cathedral, bigger than York, at its heart.

Hanbury's principal fund-raising scheme was a garden centre the planted large acreages of trees and sold fine specimens to the local gentry but thought a country performance of Messiah, then doing the rounds of the big music festivals and cathedral cities, could provide a useful boost to funds.

He hired Dr William Hayes, professor of music at Oxford, to direct a performance in the parish church at Church Langton, had a new organ specially constructed (the original keyboard, now very battered, remains in the nave), and the event took place on September 27, 1759, the day following the vicar's birthday. Hanbury described the traffic jam created by concert goers and recalled the "performance, which popular rumour said Handel had attended even though he had been dead for five months."

"The music, on so solemn a subject, by so good a band, was most affecting; and to see the effect it had on different persons was astonishingly moving and strange. An eye without tears I believe could hardly be found in the whole church, and everyone endeavoured to conceal the emotions of his heart: drooping heads, to render the tears unnoticed, became for a while almost general, till by now and then looking about, and finding others affected in the like manner, no concealment in a little time was made. Tears then with unconcern were seen trickling down the

faces of many; and then indeed it was extremely moving to see the pity, compassion, and grief which the greatest part of the assembly possessed the greatest part present."

"As soon as the oratorio ended, and the company was out of the church, the doors were set wide open, and part of it performed over again for the entertainment of the common people; and it was really curious to see what a hurry they were to get in, and what striving there was immediately to get out again; for they crushed one another to an amazing degree. It pleased them however and thus ended the day's performance in the church."

And so the "common people" acquired a taste for Messiah and they have not wavered of it yet. What finally brought Messiah to the masses was cheap music. By 1850, the price of Vincent Novello's pocket edition was a mere 1s 4d, which explains why so many amateurs could join in those mammoth performances at Crystal Palace in 1859 that drew in 2,765 singers in the chorus, with an orchestra of 400. When they performed Messiah there in 1857 with slightly smaller forces, they said you could hear the Hallelujah Chorus half a mile from Norwood.

Mammoth performances were daft. But who could begrudge those earnest chorists their moments of glory and who today could resist the wish to have been in Crystal Palace to listen or take part?

Messiah remains top of the league. "I can tell you that without looking," said the man from the hire library at Novello and Co. "We hire out scores in vast quantities

every year, with particular peaks at Christmas and Easter. Manchester's Henry Woodson Ford, who has 1,380 copies of the vocal score and every one is out on loan at Christmas; book early to avoid disappointment. Local choral societies and their audiences still love it. "We always get a good audience for Messiah," said Barbara Johnson, secretary of the Galtley Choral Society in the Manchester suburbs. "If we do anything obscure, the takings suffer. A lot of people say it's not Christmas until you've done Messiah."

Amen to that! I do a scratch Messiah every year, using one of Manchester's 1,380 copies. About 180 of us turn up to listen to the soloists and join in the choruses. The tenors are usually thin on the ground and the basses are normally asked politely to keep up with everyone else.

I choose my seat with care. Messiah has come to me imperfectly by osmosis and all those little black notes ("And he shall purify hy-hy-hy") are in the near and the far on the back of my neck and what bass can resist the mighty lead of "Blessing and honour, glory and power be unto him" in Worthy is the Lamb?

By the great Amen, my soul is shredded. Thanks Mr Handel, and happy birthday.

WEEK-END ARTS

Jean-Luc's new testament

"IF THERE'S one thing that writing a book on Godard convinced me of, it's that one should avoid becoming Godard's producer at all costs." Thus I joked to Tony Kirkhope of the Other Cinema as we flew out to Geneva in the spring of last year to fix up the final details of a package whereby Tony was to produce a television programme that Godard was to make for Channel 4.

The joke had turned a little sour as some six months later I sat in Paris in the pouring rain of a winter morning while Godard, in despair over the progress of the movie *Detective*, simply refused to talk about a detailed schedule for the programme which was already three months overdue.

But dealing with Godard is both difficult and easy — difficult in that he is a perfectionist who constantly demands enough time to complete something to his entire satisfaction (there was yet more potential for cardiac arrest when Tony arrived in Geneva this March to be told that Godard was so dissatisfied with the finished programme that he was going to start again from scratch); easy in that he will always fulfil his commitments in his own time. It is this insistence on ignoring the frenetic rhythms of cinema and television where money and time ceaselessly destroy time that makes Godard's work both unique and important.

When Godard broke with the conventional cinema in 1968 it was ostensibly a political act, but the real politics of the image had nothing to do with the sectarian Maoism which provided an explicit commentary on this decision. Godard was determined to break with the logic of money and contracts which imposed fixed schedules of production and re-investigate the possibilities offered by the combination



A scene from *Slow Motion*... Is this to be a target of IBA censorship?

As Channel 4 begin a major retrospective of the work of Jean-Luc Godard, Colin MacCabe assesses the position of this controversial film-maker in cinema history

of sound and image. Above all, for Godard, it was a question of gaining control of production, of slowing down the conventional processes so that they could be understood and transformed.

If it was revolutionary politics and the aggressive egalitarianism of the '68 era which signalled the break with conventional aesthetics and established hierarchies, it was the possibilities offered by the new video technology which allowed Godard genuine control of the production and editing of images. Throughout the seventies he assembled, together with Anne-Marie Miéville, the hardware which

enabled them to become an almost autonomous production house. The films and television programmes they produced throughout the seventies are a remarkable investigation of the violent divorce between work and home, labour and love, which is so essential to advanced capitalist societies and which they were attempting to overcome in their own practice.

From the base they had built together, Godard felt capable of re-entering the conventional production structures at the beginning of the eighties. Since then he has produced a stream of extraordinary and beautiful

movies, one of the most recent of which, *Hail Mary*, will inaugurate London's new Metro cinema in September.

By that time viewers of Channel 4 will have had an opportunity to consider the full range of Godard's experiments in a season of his post-68 work which starts on Monday. At least, one must hope that the full range is available for there is talk that the IBA are thinking of censoring both *Numero Deux* and *Slow Motion* because of their explicit sexual content.

Such censorship would mark a triumph of low-brow philistinism. The films are not remotely titillating or

pornographic and their ferocious investigation and indictment of much contemporary sexuality makes them essential contributions to contemporary cinema. One can only hope that the IBA recognise the aesthetic and political importance of Godard's work and allow the series to go ahead in its entirety.

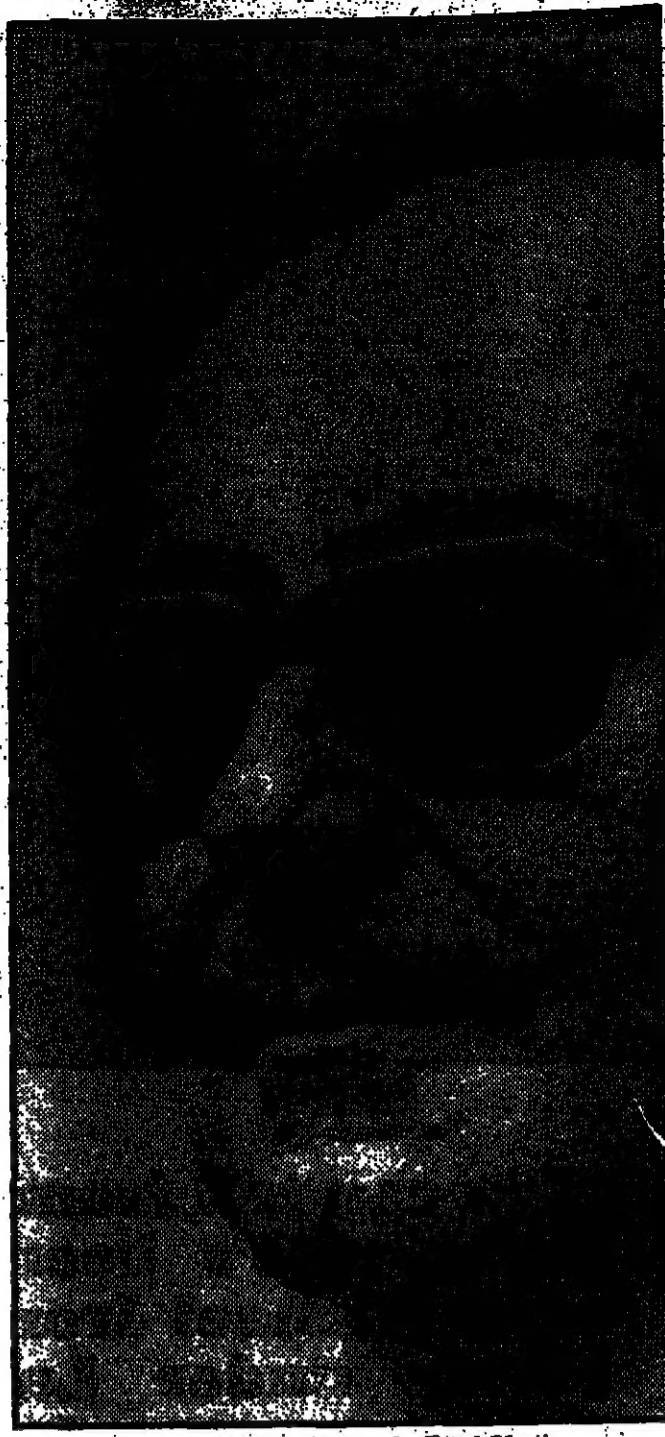
One of the high points is sure to be the transmission of *Soft and Hard*, the video that took so long to deliver. Shot in and around the village of Rolle in Switzerland, it features Godard and Miéville live, the programme focuses on the relation of images to conceptions of 'home', of nature, of art.

The galvanic images of Hollywood, seen ever more nostalgically as irretrievably lost, and the bland images of daily television, seen as ever more omnipresent, are contrasted with the images of Godard and Miéville in their apartment.

The questions they pose are ones that affect us all. How is one to understand the interchange between image and reality which is so constant a process within our society? How do the images of films we remember or the images of television broadcast into our living rooms affect our images of ourselves?

These abstract questions are posed in relation to concrete experience. How is Godard to understand the process he has in making *Detective* or *Anne-Marie* to reflect on her short film *The Book of Mary*? As the couple discuss and demonstrate these problems, one has the feeling that they, at least, have some way towards solving the distinction between industrial production and domestic labour — here, for the first time, is "home television."

Colin MacCabe is director of production at the British Film Institute.



Hail Jean-Luc... Picture by Frank Martin

Pick of next week's TV

Monday

Human Jigsaw (Thames 11.30, Central 12.35, other regions vary). Return of the pop anthropology series finds presenter Ray Gosling on exercises with the T.A. deodating the paint-potter builders in a battle between pub-teams and keeping a safe distance as two villages engage in a kind of free-form rapscall. He repeatedly poses the question: do we games act as a release for aggression or develop it? — but fails to find an answer.

End Of Empire (C4, 9.05). Final part of the series, at its best, as here, when uncovering new evidence in familiar stories. The subject is Rhodesia, begins with UDI, precipitated by Wilson's 'insane' (Doris Healey's word) 'decision' that a British military invasion was out of the question, and continues with the Lancaster House talks 15 years later, the subsequent election and the British fear of a white coup.

Tuesday

Radiophiles (BBC2, 9.35). Witty play, dealing with radio and set in the easy world of radio drama where the old stagers bring their knitting, the sound effects men 'teasers' around in high heels, and the playwright flaps about like an expectant father. Starry cast includes Doro Merande as a Peeping Tom philologist in the play within a play ("he knows all the vocabulary but he doesn't have the legs"), and a frankly old dirt once the microphone's turned off. As in last week's *Glamour*, Night, the author — in this case Stewart Parker — is in a way satirising himself. Enjoyable.

Howard Jones — at Manchester. A popo BBC2, 7.00. If you blink and miss Jones in the Live Aid line-up, you can catch up with his brand of optimistic synthesiser pop in this rather more extended showcase.

Wednesday

Sperm Bank Baby (BBC1, 9.35). Dr Arfon Rees, a Californian psychologist, unmarried but desperate for a child, tells reporter Desmond Wilcox why, at last, he turned to a sperm bank which deals only in "genius" fathers. He rather shrugs the rest of the "elitist master race" feeling of it "but can't be faulted for frankness in any other respect. The father, Donor 28, seen from the knees down in a television interview, is rather a disappointment however: "It's not very exciting work," he says.

Mozart's Unfinished (C4, 8.30). Gritty jolly documentary showing how the composer Philip Wilby completed one of Mozart's hundred or so unfinished works. Wilby's actors playing Mozart and other musicians, are summoned — a phony device — and the Amadeus Trio and the Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, perform.

The Red And The Black (C4, 7.30). Lively studio debate about the book, or otherwise, for black sections in the Labour Party — an issue, on this showing, which seems to divide potential members of such sections as much as it does the rest of the Left.

Thursday

Maybe Baby (BBC 2, 9.15). Jack Kline, a persuasive in his recent on-screen play, Naggling Doubts, portraying his South African childhood, brandishes his liberal conscience and a new man "credentials" in this two-hander about a couple struggling over whether to have a child. Occasional insights don't dispel the general tactlessness.

From The Face Of The Earth (C4, 8.00). Hepatitis B, a disease endemic in parts of the Third World and an ever-present threat to homosexual communities 10 years ago, was like some horrible dress rehearsal for AIDS. June Goodfield's series' medical sleuth discovers how a vaccine was developed and given a successful clinical trial thanks to the co-operation of thousands of gays in New York's Greenwich Village.

Friday

Quickly Up The Thames (BBC 1, 10.15). Not quite the Hindu Kush but, seen through the eyes of author and travelling man Eric Newby, the Thames has its fascination. He describes his remarkable career which began as an apprentice on one of the last of the great sailing ships.

First Night Of The Proms (BBC 1, 10.15). Sir John Pritchard and the BBC Symphony Orchestra celebrate the 300th anniversary of Handel's birth with a performance of the Messiah — in the Mozart arrangement.

Helen Oldfield

Miller's tale of China

Hugh Hebert on how Peking took to Willy Loman

DURING the years of the Red Guards, we're told, only eight plays were officially allowed on the Chinese stage, and I bet they were all depressing. They may also have been purging, and naturally any play that is more purging than depressing counts as tragedy, while plays that depress more than they purge count mostly as pains in the neck.

Whether they knew which they were getting or not, in 1983 the Peking People's Art Theatre — no longer confined to the eight approved texts — invited Arthur Miller to direct a production of his *Death of a Salesman*, translated by Ying Ruocheng, who also played the main role. Later, Miller wrote a book about it, and the *Salesman* Goes to China (BBC1) was the omnibus edition of his experiences, as revealing of the state of the theatre

there in the wake of the Cultural Revolution as it was of the play.

Now let me give it to you straight, or as Ying translates the phrase, "Let me talk to you open door see mountain" — the Chinese having invented the comma long after they thought of punctuation. Death of a Salesman has always tended to purge me less than it depresses me, mainly because most of what happens to Willy Loman could possibly happen to any man in the audience, and because the American dream and the American selling ethic has always meant less on this side of the Atlantic.

The merit of this documentary was that — with clips of three different *Salesmen*, Lee J. Cobb, Dustin Hoffman, Ying himself — and with Miller providing a gloss, it seemed a richer play.

But it was the Chinese company

that made the exercise worthwhile. With their accounts of the Red Guard years, when they were, as Ying said, treated like criminals, made to till the fields and be re-educated by the theatre cleaners, with the way they revealed a rabid-like resilience.

The programme's only serious fault was that it had none of the solid structure of Miller's drama. It felt like one of those questions packed with foam chips, full but amorphous. I don't know whether the producer/narrator Anna Yenbo, or his director Jill Evans, should take the rap for that. Or whether the Chinese company, who will take that charred pot on their back.

Commercial Breaks (BBC1)

returned with a programme updating two earlier eavesdropping sessions on Maxwell and the Mirror he bought just a year ago. The earlier shows, extensively re-edited last night, had some pretty lucky breaks of their own, or else some clever replays: the moment when Clive Thornton was told that Maxwell had bid \$80 million, the meeting when Maxwell's boys realised the Sun had stolen their million pound thunder.

In the year since, Cap'n Bob has spent \$10 million on publicity, mainly for Cap'n Bob: Maxwell meeting the president of, wait for it, Bulgaria. Maxwell receiving his share from the Polachow of New York. Maxwell's front page splash rescuing Sinclair. This was the best of the three programmes, and somehow I don't think there will be a fourth.

DUCHESS THEATRE

Rosalind Carne

A State of Affairs

APART from a certain glib facility in the dialogue and a valiant effort from the cast, I can find little to recommend in this programme of four purportedly humorous playlets by Graham Swannell. Peter James is the director and the production is a transfer from the Lyric at Hammersmith, which usually has better taste. Marriage and mistresses may present fertile ground for laughter but surely we can expect more than a conception of cliché and thinly veiled misogyny dressed up in the trappings of contemporary life-styles?

Playlet, the first, lauds the power of thigh boots and lacy black underwear to resurrect a failing sexual life. Accurate or not, it is hardly a novel observation, and is it, of itself, funny? No doubt we are meant to feel praiseworthy sympathy for Gary Bond as the oppressed husband, forced to perform every night when once a month would be quite enough. Admittedly, he gives a credible stab at this thankless role, and he has certainly met his match in Nichola McAuliffe's vain and predatory Caroline.

Man as victim reappears in the second piece when a

poor philanderer is confronted by the horrifying revelation that his mistress has fallen in love with him. Amanda Boxer rises beautifully to the challenge of the fury of a woman scorned, and Nichola McAuliffe returns in different guise with just the right note of fortitude and hesitation as the dowdy partner from whom the man escaped temporarily for a bit of excitement.

Part two deals respectively with the erring husband and the (male) cultural deprivations of childrearing. Neither offers more than a pessimistic shrug in its attempt to challenge stereotypes. There is a certain cruel acuity in spotting the niceties of British social stratification and their relation to sexual behaviour but not enough to rescue what is ultimately a pretty depressing experience, though the historical supremacy threatened by the army of modern viragos might find it a source of comfort.

BIRMINGHAM

Gerald Lamer

CBSO/Edwards

THE PROM routine requires both predictable programmes and predictable conductors, nothing and nobody likely to obstruct the



MARITAL ARTS... Gary Bond and Nichola McAuliffe in *A State of Affairs*. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

efficient conversion of minimum rehearsal into maximum returns. The exception is once again provided by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which entrusted itself in the middle of the last week of its Prom season to a conductor with little experience and no popular reputation.

Actually, Sian Edwards has done one or two out-of-town concerts with the CBSO and she did win the conductors' competition in Leeds last year. So they could certainly trust her. She, for her part, had to prove that there is

more to her ability than just that, which is one reason why she applied herself with such determination to Beethoven's Eighth Symphony in the second half of the concert. It was a refreshingly vital performance, vulnerable to the usual problems, but structurally well organised.

Structure seems to have a high priority in Miss Edwards's conducting. Certainly, the overall shaping was the most impressive aspect of her interpretation of the Fingal's Cave Overture. Given less dramatic pieces like Grieg's Two Elegiac Mel-

odies, she is less interesting, particularly when she releases into those vague looping gestures which even out the melodic details.

ST PAUL'S

Hugo Cole

Berlioz

The big festival concert at St Paul's are grand public events. The music often suffers, but they can still provide a unique, if bewildering, sound experience. The cheerful Poulenc organ concerto with the solo part played by John Birch was reduced to an almost indecipherable jumble of smudged sounds dominated by tinny and double basses as heard from the south transept. One could sometimes read musical sense into this strange medley, but with no more certainty than a psychologist interpreting his Rorschach blots.

Wagner's *Lohengrin* (the opening prelude) was much more at home under the great dome, with its slow changes of harmony and colour and one long-spread swell and fade. But the real justification for the occasion came with Berlioz's *Trois Symphonies* conducted by Charles Groves in his most majestic manner, with London Philharmonic and London Symphony Orchestras, the Philharmonia Orchestra, 300 voices in the children's choir, with Ian Caley as soloist. This was an impressive performance even though the

antiphonal effects devised for organ and orchestra at opposite ends of a great church were necessarily lost. The music allows for inevitable blurring of detail, and also allows a huge choir to assert its own character and identity. There are tunes both solemn and lyrical, no counterpoint, but the ear can cope with characteristic harmonic surprises often saved for final cadences. This military Te Deum even ends with a march: slow but far from lugubrious, with some of the most interesting music in the whole work.

ST JOHN'S

Edward Greenfield

Peterborough Orchestra

IN THE language of a Civil Service handout, the Peterborough String Orchestra may talk about "playing an important role in regional music provision," but in the 18 months since this talented band of 12 young professional players was formed it has achieved that and more.

Its latest London concert at St John's, Smith Square, demonstrated every item of a delightfully varied programme that its work is not just about formality and civic or regional duty but the real emotional stuff of music-making.

Taking a leaf out of the book of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, the players of the Peterborough String Orchestra give their performances glowing (except for the cellos), and that may in part account for their alertness whether in Mozart, Elgar, Shostakovich, or a rare concerto for strings by the Polish woman composer, Grazyna Bacewicz.

If Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* at the start was brisk, fresh and positive, plain in its classical manners rather than subtly shaped, it led to subtly warm performances of the more overtly emotional pieces which followed. The leader, Paul Manley, with minimum fuss, consistently led his band of a dozen through the subtleties of expressive rubato with the sort of responsive precision you expect from a string quartet.

That was so whether in the gently infected phrases of Elgar's *Serenade* for Strings and Chorus, *de matin et de nuit*, or in the darker, violently energetic rhythms of the fast movements in the Beethoven or the Shostakovich Chamber Symphony based on the Eighth String Quartet.

Radio highlights

Today: Live Aid for Africa (Radio 1, 12 noon to 6 am). Simultaneous broadcast with BBC-TV. Quote. Unquote. (Radio 4, 12.27 pm). New series of what is now a Golden Oldie, *Virgin Territory* (Radio 4, 8.30 pm). Play about the campaigning journalist W. T. Stead's fight against child prostitution.

Tomorrow: Touched (Radio 4, 2.30 pm). Repeat of Stephen Lowe's Monday play about the dreams and realities of three sisters in the last weeks of the second world war — confusing voices, but a moving evocation of the favour and emotions of the times.

In the Psychiatrist's Chair (Radio 4, 7.30 pm). Dr Anthony Clare talks to R. D. Laing, shrink to shrink. Monday: Behavioural Science (Radio 4, 8.15 pm). Martyn Wade's black comedy about a couple's

dreams, and what might be buried in a suburban back garden.

Tuesday: Phone-in on the NHS (Radio 4, 9.5 am). With Health Minister Kenneth Clarke in the hot seat. Wildlife (Radio 4, 11.33 am). Derek Jones chairs a debate about bird shooting. Wednesday: Crossroads (Radio 3, 7.30 pm). A new Rhys Adrian play about an elderly show-biz couple, played by Brenda Bruce and Peter Sallis.

Thursday: Crossing the Frontier (Radio 4, 9 pm). Peter Timmiswood's comedy about cruise life and shipboard romance.

Friday: A Year in the Life of the Albert Hall (Radio 4, 11 am). The Proms start tonight, and Nigel Farrell has listened to the many and diverse events here over the last year.

Val Arnold-Forster

WHERE IS PARSIFAL?

starring

TONY CURTIS • CASSANDRA DOMENICA
ERIK ESTRADA • PETER LAWFORD
RON MOODY • DONALD PLEASENCE
and ORSON WELLES

A TERENCE YOUNG PRODUCTION

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER TERENCE YOUNG PRODUCED BY DANIEL CARLINO SCREENPLAY BY BERTA DOMINGUEZ MUSIC BY HERBERT ROSS AND NANCY JULIAN DIRECTED BY HEINRICH HALLMAN

Scene 4 LEICESTER SQ (WARDOUR ST) NOW

هكذا من الاله

WEEK-END PEOPLE



Criminal fraternity's don

THE bulge near Max Byrd's snout was unmistakable. He was carrying "It's a wallet," he said, opening his jacket to expose a white shoulder holster. Where the butt should have been was a sign. "I have had the most amazing respect from shopkeepers," he remarked recently. Mae West made a more loaded remark about a holster, but this is a family newspaper.

Byrd is neither fish nor fowl — an American academic at the University of California specialising in 18th century literature who, many critics believe, will inherit Raymond Chandler's mantle for the private eye series he has embarked upon. His third Mike Haller thriller, *Finders Weepers*, is published by Allison & Busby, \$2.95.

"In my first book, *California Thriller*, I wanted Haller to be the grandson of Philip Marlowe," he says. "I was

frankly trying to imitate and update what Chandler had done."

Haller is a Bostonian private eye operating in the sleazy Tenderloin district of San Francisco. Byrd admits his hero's name might have been a mistake. He was not well acquainted with Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer stories, and had myopically peered the moniker of the English scholar William Haller from Boston.

Anglophilia and literature are Byrd's unlikely links with Chandler. The latter was imbued with a classical education at Dulwich College and always regarded himself as an Englishman. His stories were a marriage of classical precision and street slang.

Likewise, Byrd spent a year after graduating from Harvard as a research student at King's College, Cambridge, and is as happy as a cop in a much wandering around London the subject of his study of low literary figures responded to the city. His most recent academic work was a critical study of Laurence Sterne's novel *Tristram Shandy*.

It is not surprising that the hard-bitten Haller has a stylish line of chat. "You're always saying that Freud was the first great detective," says his girlfriend. "He made it easy for himself," Haller replies. "He just decided everybody was guilty."

Byrd went gamush four years ago after attending a conference for aspiring writers in Squaw Valley. A paperback editor agreed to read his manuscript of *California Thriller* and signed him up a week later. Now he returns as an occasional teacher.

What is his colleagues' reaction to this literary slumming? "I think the most tactful word is wary," he said. "They probably think I have made pots of money, which is not true."

"It means that I hang around with a more interesting class of person. I go to

THE GUARDIAN 1960

JULY 13: The United States vigorously protested to the Soviet Union last night over the "unwarranted shooting down" of an American reconnaissance aircraft on July 1. It said the aeroplane was never within 30 miles of Soviet land territory.

In a note delivered to the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow, the United States said it was evident that the Soviet Air Force aeroplanes "wantonly attacked the American RB-47 aircraft over international waters."

MR MACMILLAN told the Commons yesterday that he is going to consult with President Eisenhower on any "modification or improvement" of the agreement about the use of American air bases in Britain.

This promise was welcomed by the crowded Chamber, meeting in the chilling shadow of the Arctic wind, but it was clear that the House or the public will in future be any less in the dark than hitherto. Nor, indeed, did the Prime Minister even say whether the British Government has been consulted about the flights.

Dunts in the dumps

"OUR determination to stop this Duntrey project is absolute. The fishermen are convinced they can take on the Government and win."

Mrs Frances McKie is a member of The Dunters, an Orkney environmental group named after a duck. In local dialect "dunt" means to push, and her bold words might seem foolhardy had not the Orkneys brought irresistible force to bear on a 1977 proposal to mine uranium in the islands. They won.

Now they face a government-approved plan to transform Duntrey on the Scottish coast, which has been a centre of nuclear research and safety for the past 30 years, into a reprocessing plant.

"We believe that Windscale has a limited life and that Duntrey has been picked as a possible new Windscale, a centre for European reprocessing, storage and dumping. It would close a cycle which commits the entire EEC to a plutonium economy blocking out laser and solar alternatives. For the first step to be the subject of a local inquiry is just crazy."

Mrs McKie (38) is married to a marine pilot who works for the oil industry on Flotta, one of the 100-island Orkney group, 30 miles from the mainland.

The islanders are particularly peeved because two years ago they drew up an investment programme to develop a special food industry based on their reputation for producing fine seafood, beef, cheese and whisky. As a precaution they conducted a local survey of radiation levels.

"We served warning that the community wouldn't tolerate any additions. The survey showed up deposits from Duntrey, which made us think they have not been telling the truth about their safety record. Within a week of taking samples, Duntrey made a press statement that they had started to deal with activity on Thurso and Duntrey beaches."

The Dunters are now virtually subsumed into a new movement, the Campaign Against Duntrey Expansion, comprising groups in the north of Scotland and Northern Ireland. They are demanding a wide-ranging public inquiry.

Who holds the cards in mystery of the tarot?

IT WAS 11 am and the coffee already stated like Nitromors. Not a client in sight. I had slit the mail to see if any dirt fell out and had spiked the usual demands. I was studying this pic of a tattoo-parlour broad, with hazooms like she was shot in the back with rods, when a till bell rang in what remained of my cerebrum.

It thrilled Amanda Lear, who had just slipped her London moorings and was heading back to Europe after giving me the works on her 15-year relationship with Salvador Dali (see last week's cold potatoes). The clue was in something I had just read. It was the advance bumph on a Rainbird book called *Salvador Dali's Tarot*, a commentary by Rachel Pollack on a set of tarot cards designed by the surrealist fruitcake.

The bell rang louder, kicking a few more brain cells into gear. I recalled that in her book *My Life With Dali*, Amanda Lear says Dali was commissioned by producer Cubby Broccoli to design a tarot set for the James Bond film *Live And Let Die*. The idea was that the set would later be marketed.

"This was exactly the kind of project that bored Dali right," she writes. "He asked me to do it for him, and I had a wonderful time researching it. I began to cut out pictures of Dali's works from the books he had in the house. From these I tried to make up the tarot characters. It took me several days but I finished the job in the end."

According to Lear, Broccoli gave the bum's rush to Dali's exorbitant price-tag and stuck grimly to his decision when, at Dali's urging, she subsequently made a new pitch at his London office. Later on, Dali naturally succeeded in selling the tarot cards in New York. You either have a business sense or you don't.

Tasty. Could Salvador Dali's Tarot prove to be Amanda Lear's scientific? The circumstantial evidence as we say in the trade, was there in Rainbird's blurb. This stated that the tarot cards were "the only set to have been painted by a great artist."

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Rainbird's publishing director, Maxim Jakubowski, sounded like he was swallowing a chili when I rang him. "Before we parted with the money we went to great lengths to establish as thoroughly as possible the authenticity of the cards," he said. "We have been given a number of certificates of authentication."

He had acquired reproduction rights from the Spanish owners of the artwork, he said. He described the 78 cards as collages — cut-outs which included figures from such artists as Goya and Delacroix, adapted in the Dali style. He had then commissioned a commentary from



One of the set from the cover of Rainbird's book

the tarot expert Rachel Pollack, who had never met Dali. He suggested we could split the wood from the pith if the date of Amanda Lear's scissor-job could be nailed down.

Cherchez la femme. If you can, I dissolved a layer of tooth enamel, tracing a bemused Amanda Lear to the Hotel de la Ville in Rome. "So far as I know he only made one set, which is the one I made," she said. She had not used works by Goya, Delacroix or other artists. "But I only did the major Arcana, about 12 figures. Maybe they added some more. Dali things are so dodgy."

"Dali had no idea about tarot cards. I went out and

bought a set. He gave me a book of his paintings and I cut out some of his figures and glued it all together like a puzzle. Basically I was having fun. Once it was finished Dali did a couple of brushstrokes here and there."

She put the date at 1973 or 1974. Back to Maxim Jakubowski, who admitted this tied in with his information. He then revealed that the original cards are owned and held by New York bank and that he had purchased reproduction rights from the Distribucionese D'Art Surrealistes, which has offices in Barcelona and at the Dali Museum in Figueras, the artist's Spanish birthplace.

He said Rainbird's reproductions were taken from copies marketed by the Spanish firm at £45 a set. The firm had specified that Rainbird must provide the museum with 200 copies of the book from each of the four countries in which it is being printed.

He had been assured that Dali's wife, Gala, had nurtured her husband's interest in mysticism, and that it was for her that the cards had been painted. "We are quite satisfied that they are the work of Dali," he said.

He seemed to be taking it well, the way some guys do after they've been mugged. Rainbird plans to push the book out with a launch party at the end of next month. (It is published on August 18, \$2.95). The book is over-subscribed by 25 per cent on its print run. Jakubowski wryly acknowledged the irony of the situation — he was a founder of Virgin Books, the publisher of Amanda Lear's memoirs, some of which always return home.

The two main witnesses were out of the running. Gala died in 1982 and Dali is reported to be fenced in by minders with a tube down his throat. There was no choice but to go back to the dish who once claimed she was a fake.

Amanda Lear can dematerialise like a UFO and it was another day before she could be reached at her home near Marseilles. By then I had a copy of the Rainbird book. She confirmed that while Dali had an aversion to horoscopes, he had indulged his old lady's enthusiasm for tarot cards and declared her to be a dab hand.



LEAR — a cut and paste job on behalf of the master. Picture by Garry Wesser

Lear firmly declined my offer to describe the cards over the phone. It was too haphazard, she said, citing the minefield of litigation that surrounded Dali's work. She could only know when

the book was in her hands. "We must tread carefully," she cautioned huskily.

Only the question of who was picking up the bill for this case stopped me scrambling on to a plane. I contacted a pal of Amanda

Lear's who was flying out to see her last night. The book will be in Lear's hands today, and I expect a call any moment.

Interested parties can consult me for my normal fee. Plus expenses.

Goodbye to little green men...

YOU ARE driving with friends in the country when you spot a strange object in the sky. It seems to come closer, then vanishes. Then you find yourself in a semi-dreamlike stage, further along your journey but on an unfamiliar road. Your shoes are unaccountably scuffed, your body hurts, and two hours have sped by.

Later, under hypnosis, you recall the incident. You find yourself on board an unidentified flying object being meticulously examined by small, robot-like beings with the aid of a large, eye-shaped device. A tall, humanoid creature overrules them. Telepathically, you answer their questions, and to your surprise they answer yours. After a hazy period you are back in your car.

This is a fictional model of the rarest type of UFO experience, representing a fraction of the few "alien contact" incidents reported each year. Yet, national director of Randles, at the British Investigations of the UFO Research Association, if UFO is constructed from the common features found in hundreds of accounts in the UFO literature.

In her view, this is a close encounter of the fourth kind, sitting neither the prevalent atmospheric phenomenon nor the (90-95 per cent) typical UFO encounter (2-3



RANDLES — UFO threat. Picture by Martin Arles

per cent). She believes this sort of case to be the province of psychologists and sociologists, reflecting the conclusion in Science and the UFOs, which she has written with Peter Warrington, that if UFO-ology is left in the hands of non-scientists it will never escape the little green men.

Little green men are no longer runners. She says that no convincing photographs have been produced of aliens or UFOs on the ground, whereas atmospheric phenomena frequently mistaken for UFOs do show up on radar and film. This is as disappointing as the conclusion by the president of the Ghost Club that ghosts may

be the product of the collective unconscious.

She does not go as far as Carl Jung, whose book *Flying Saucers* (1959) suggests that UFOs may be psychic projections which throw back a radar echo. But she is keen that scientists study the possibility that the proximity of UAPs (unidentified atmospheric phenomena) exerts a "mind-scrambling" effect on the brain, releasing hallucinations deep in the human psyche.

Many of the cases she deals with involve as many as five witnesses, and she admits that five-person hallucinations are virtually unheard of. Investigating psychologists have found no

pattern of abnormality. "However the alien contact experience is subjective and can be real to one group of people, but a group over the road may have been nothing," she says. She also suspects a form of "witness selectivity" at work.

She insists that BURA does not run away from little green men. In fact she has spent 44 years challenging her own scepticism by investigating the bizarre UFO case near a US military base at Rendlesham Forest in 1980, when a "small triangular craft spewing fire" was seen by several witnesses.

Through the US Freedom of Information Act she obtained an MDO document describing the incident as a UFO encounter, and a tape made by US personnel on the spot. She suspects this is misinformation to disguise the testing of a secret military device.

"An MDO scientist told me recently 'You are messing with something so serious you could end up at the bottom of the Thames. I want to keep pursuing it to the bitter end.'"

Science and the UFOs is published this week by Basil Blackwell, £13.50.

People is written by Stuart Wavell

...hello gushype

GROUND Saucer Watch, the American UFO group, should really investigate Carol Hill, who claims that her sexy bestseller about sub-particle physics shot into her noddle like radio waves from outer space.

"Unbelievable!" she recently told the Washington Post. "Like the story's coming from outside. Maybe it is. Maybe this sounds crazy. I believe in an enormous positive energy available to us."

Her book, unpromisingly titled *The Eleven Million Mile High Dancer*, is enormously and positively enhancing her bank balance. It is said to combine funk, fantasy, physics and feminism. The film rights have been sold, and both Kate Capshaw and Jessica Lange allegedly want to play Amanda, "the ultimate space-age romantic heroine" who wears skates and shorts.

Sadly Carol Hill (43) can't skate, but is said to wear space-age earrings. Whereas Amanda has goddess proportions.

"Amanda is not me," she says. "I wish she were me. She's so strong and inspiring. Something's wonderful about her. She's the woman we'd all like to be. She makes me feel it's terrible to be a woman."

We are witnessing an easily explained phenomena here, gushype.

BIRTHDAYS

TODAY: Derek Brewer, master, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and professor of English, 62; Jeffery Daniels, director, Geoffrey Museum, London, 53; Mostyn Evans, recently retired secretary, the Transport and General Workers' Union, 60; Harrison Ford, actor, 43; Roger McGuinn, singer, founder, the Byrds, 43; David Storey, novelist, playwright, 52.

TOMORROW: Eugene Bergman, film producer, 67; Gerald Ford, former President of the United States, 72; Leon Garfield, author, 64; Sue Lawley, television journalist, 39; Sir William Beechey, chairman, Arts Council, vice-chairman, BBC, 57.

MONDAY: Julian Bream, guitarist, 52; Lord Buxton, naturalist, a founding director of Anglia TV, 67; Carmen Calli, feminist publisher, founder of Virago, 47; Robert Conquest, author, 68; Michael Elliott, general administrator, National Theatre, 43; Hammond Innes, novelist, 72; Sir Larry Lamb, editor, the Daily Express, 56; Iris Murdoch, philosopher, novelist, 66; Linda Ronstadt, singer, actress, 38.

TUESDAY: Anita Brookner, professor at the Courtauld, Booker winner, 47; Lorraine Chase, model, actress, 34; Margaret Clifton, former Wimbledon champion, 43; Ginger Rogers, dancer and actress, 74; Tom Rosenzweig, publisher, 50; Barbara Stanwyck, actress, 78; Pinchas Zukerman, violinist, 37.

WEDNESDAY: Hardy Amies, dressmaker, 76; Tim Brooke-Taylor, comedian, 45;

James Cagney, actor, 86; Dianah Carroll, actress, singer, 50; Phyllis Diller, comedienne, 68; Ray Galton, author, scriptwriter, 55; Elizabeth Quinn, actress, 37; Wayne Sleep, dancer, 37; Donald Sutherland, actor, 51.

THURSDAY: Brian Auger, jazz, blues, rock organist, 48; Kenneth Armitage, sculptor, 69; Edward Bond, playwright, 51; Richard Branson, of Virgin Records and Virgin Atlantic, 35; Dave Cash, disc presenter, 43; Nick Faldo, golfer, 28; Senator John Glenn, former astronaut, 64; Andrei Gromyko, President of the Soviet Union, 76; David Hensley, former Olympic hurdler, 41; Elizabeth Jennings, author, poet, 59; Dennis Lillee, cricketer, 36; Robert McGrath, Irish rugby international, 41; Richard Passo, actor, 39; Hugh Stephen, editor, New Statesman, 47.

FRIDAY: John Bratby, painter, 57; Simon Cadell, actor, 35; Cameron Cochrane, headmaster, Fettes College, Edinburgh, 52; Hubert Gregg, actor, composer, lyricist, 69; George Hamilton IV, country singer, 48; Lenzi Kenner, pianist, composer, 80; Ilie Nastase, tennis player, 39; Gena Rowlands, actress, 49.

JULY 18: Elisabethville, July 17. After some strong fighting, the Congolese Premier Tshombe of Katanga ended a press conference here today by showing the design of a new independent Katanga flag — a gesture which the Congolese Government's efforts to achieve a fait accompli.

JULY 19: A threat by M. Patrice Lumumba, the Prime Minister of Congo, to call in Soviet troops unless the United Nations made the Belgians withdraw by today was rejected yesterday by Dr. Ralph Bunche, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, according to usually reliable sources in Leopoldville. He is said to have told the Congolese Deputy Premier, M. Antoine Gizenga, that the United Nations was "not in the habit of accepting ultimatums."

Later the Congolese Senate unanimously passed a resolution "rejecting energetically any eventual intervention by the Soviet Union in Congolese internal affairs."

DR. HASTINGS BANDA, president of the Malawi Congress Party, said yesterday on his arrival in London for the Nyasaland constitutional conference which opens on July 25, that an independent Nyasaland could not repeat the Congo troubles because no body there could contest his leadership.

"What I say goes," he said. "I am the boss." He could frighten the people by a threat to resign, M. Lumumba, he thought, was a victim of circumstances created by the Belgian policy of political repression in favour of economic liberalism.

The London Sofa Bed Centre
185-186 Tottenham Court Road, W1.
01-631 1424.
236 Fulham Road, SW10.
01-352 1358.
FIRST-AND STILL-FORMOST

WEEKEND SPORT

Howell steers his Olympic city home

DENIS HOWELL, the most convincing political voice of sport in Britain, has won Birmingham the right to put forward a bid for the Olympic Games of 1992. The city, which offers a compact site for many of the sports, now has until October 1986 to win a majority of the votes among the 92 members of the International Olympic Committee against the substantial rival claims of Barcelona, Paris, Brisbane, Amsterdam and the outsiders, New Delhi and Belgrade.

After considering the question yesterday for several hours, listening to each candidate city, asking questions and then deciding whether the winning candidate should go forward, the international sporting policies of the matter were wholly ignored. The BOA members considered only the facilities that were proposed, and on that evidence Birmingham was the only city to have 25 votes. Manchester had five and London, twice previously host city to the Games, won only two of the votes.

Howell, a former Minister of Sport, was known to all the members of the

John Rodda on Birmingham's victory over London and Manchester

BOA, who over the years have much admired his contribution to their cause both individually and collectively. He was by far the most experienced sporting spokesman put forward by the three cities.

He had a strong case to argue, with nine of the Olympic sports capable of being housed within the National Exhibition Centre complex, and another stadium to be built which would also be turned over to an exhibition site after the Games.

Howell believes that he can lead a successful campaign, against the odds to the IOC. He is well versed in international sporting politics and was on the short list of Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president in 1981, to become a member of the IOC.

Howell could not conceal his surprise at the size of the Birmingham victory, but in the context of the facilities offered they were clearly the

best. "We are like Lester Piggott going round Tattenham Corner — the others are spread all over the course, but failing apart, and we are coming through," he said, giving a hint that the President of the IOC's part in Madame Monique Berlioz's recent departure as director of the Olympic Movement is clearly going to help the Birmingham cause.

In fact the decision should cause the French to split a few bottles of champagne; they will be pleased that the anti-Barcelona vote and the anti-Latin vote will now not be split between Paris and London.

"We want to give the Games back to the athletes and rekindle the Olympic spirit. The true purpose of the Olympic Movement should be to override all the divisions of mankind and unite the competitors," said Mr Howell. As he well knows, the athletes have no vote on which site the

Games should adopt and, when coming to their decision, IOC members are likely to consider much more than sporting facilities. The Savoy, Dorchester and Ritz Hotels in London are just too far away for the IOC members to commute to Birmingham's compact sporting infrastructure; that factor may turn away much of the support Birmingham now seeks.

In the international sporting world there must now be a wry smile that the BOA has put forward a provincial city against three strong candidates. Some may interpret it as a feeling that Britain does not really want the Games after all.

Howell said that Birmingham will have £1,000 million in sporting infrastructure and because of the existence of the NEC will need only to find £200 million. They expect to make a profit of £550 million. The figures, of course, are based on previous guide-

lines laid by the IOC for bidding cities. For 1992 the rules will be different: there will be no scope to make the vast profit which the Los Angeles Games achieved.

The next crucial step for Birmingham will begin on Monday, when they must set about raising the necessary funds to mount the bid to the IOC. They will need to bring as many as possible of the IOC members to Britain, and in view of the shortness of time, to attend major sporting events where they are likely to meet IOC members.

They will discover that for the crucial October 1986 period the major hotels of Lausanne, where the IOC will decide the question, are already fully booked. All this will cost about £1.25 million, as Mr Howell said at a press conference when the Birmingham bid was launched. So far they have £250,000, but the suggestion several

weeks ago that they would go to the government for such funds has now been replaced by confidence that the private sector will come forward.

Manchester, whose bid was similar to that of Birmingham in that their proposed sites were reasonably close, were disappointed with their five votes; London, with two, were stunned. The capital had mounted a very low key submission, without videos or glossy booklets.

"We clearly could not convince the members that the travelling to be done would be accomplished with ease in 1992. Many of them had spent hours sitting in buses during the Los Angeles Games and clearly thought this would occur again," said Sir Alan Traill, the Lord Mayor of London.

Charles Palmer, chairman of the BOA, confirmed the point. "We were concerned about any bid that required cross city transport for the majority of competitors — that weighed strongly on our minds," he said.

Matthew Engel reports on the second day of the third Test at Trent Bridge

England fall from their lofty perch

CRICKET

ENGLAND'S assault on a batting Everest foundered somewhere around the South Col yesterday. Six hundred, said David Gower on Thursday night: 456 all out said the Trent Bridge score board at bedtime yesterday. And since the board read Australia 94 for one at the close, a day that had glittered with possibilities for England ended with the draw staring to look a tedious probability.

After two days of the third Test, England still led by 302. One assumes they are already defeat-proof, though England's severe 456-plus and lost at Leeds in 1948 and at Melbourne in 1928-29. There can have been very few teams in history who were 302 for two and then lost.

It was an old-fashioned collapse to go with the old-fashioned Nottingham pitch. It seems to me that far too much time in cricket is spent these days watching capable but unexciting later batsmen fiddle about. Talk-enders should be either run out or bowled out, except in the situation of extreme crisis, when they are allowed to be gallant.

There was just a hint of incompetence about the way England contrived to lose their last eight wickets for 98, the middle four of them in 11 deliveries. It was rather startling from a team

in which only Sidebottom has not made a Test 50. But one part of the collapse was quite encouraging for England: Lamb was leg before to a not very full delivery from Lawson that sidestepped through — the first sign that what a spectator called the "dehadedified" pitch might be something less than a batsman's friend by the later stages. Lamb, however, may have found it hard to look on the bright side.

So might Gower. For almost two hours, it was hard to see where Australia were ever going to find another wicket. The gates were closed; the weather, though the sun shone only occasionally, was nicely bracing; the Stages on a good day; and the crowd all then it for the ascent — the Gower 200, the Gattling 100, whatever. The Australian's afflicted stomachs were better yesterday, and their bowling improved. Gattling's throughout innings but then it started from a very low base.

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and by this time Gower and Gattling were entrenched. They began cautiously yesterday — only 25 in the first hour — but saw off the New ball and as Lawson and McDermott tired, Gower began to unleash a selection of These Strokes You Have Loved, mainly off the back foot.

Australia needed a fuke, and they got it. Gower straight-drove Holland, who parried the ball on to the stumps with Gattling, on 74, out of his ground. Curiously, the same thing had almost happened to him on Thursday. But he did not have much time left at the crease to think about that. O'Donnell found him undecided and Phillips took the catch. Gower's 160 had taken just over six hours.

He did not even have much chance to savour that. Thirty-five minutes after lunch came Lamb's mishap, and Botham lotted to mid-off. Next ball he had made 38 in even time with seven hours and, as ever, no one had

dared go to the loo or blink while Botham was batting. But somehow one had sensed that it was not going to be one of the great days and it was not, for Botham or anyone else.

Downton was out fifth ball for his second successive caught, to a superb diving catch from Richie at square leg. Of all people, said the whole of Australia in unison, since Richie is not famous for such things. Sidebottoms, first Test innings was also brief, and 416 for four had become 419 for eight. There were a few runs left, but not many. Australia were in after tea, and Lawson had found himself with five wickets in a Test innings for the 10th time without ever firing at full pace.

Australia set off in pursuit after tea, with 237 to avoid the follow-on the first priority. That did not look a problem. Hilditch's hook was in better order than it has been (as was his previously dicky stomach). The England attack with Botham now the undisputed downwind bowler, looked much steeper than Australia's, but a bit toothless.

Perhaps Saturday will again inspire Botham. But it might have been more interesting to see what a really fast bowler would have made of this pitch.

There were a few further signs of uneven bounce towards evening. And even then, Wood, after a run of failures, was starting to look



GATTING GOING... after being run out yesterday. Umpire Constant stays to replace a ball. Picture by Frank Baron

breakthrough, with Hilditch being lbw pushing forward to a ball that would probably have shaved leg stump. By then, Wood, after a run of failures, was starting to look

set. After the nightwatchman, Wessels will be in. Englishmen will arrive at the ground this morning with a much more measured tread than today.

As part of crowd-control measures, players have been asked not to sign autographs while fielding on the boundary during this Test.

Paul Fitzpatrick at Gloucester

Graveney's men glowing

THERE can be no doubting now the validity of Gloucestershire's challenge for the Britannie Assurance county championship after this emphatic win by 110 runs over Worcestershire at Tuffrey Avenue yesterday.

It was their second victory of the festival, and their sixth in all. They are back on top of the table, and they do not look out of place.

Setting Worcestershire a target of 236 to win in a minimum of 57 overs, Gloucestershire were only into the first of the final 20 overs when the Jamaican bowlers, Walsh, plied Radford lbw to complete a win that had always looked likely and a formality once Kapil Dev had departed.

Once again, Gloucestershire's pace attack justified all the complimentary things being said about them. Lawrence bowled really quick for eight overs and removed both Worcestershire openers, forcing Curtis into short leg and then ripping out d'Oliveira's off stump when the batsman shaped to pull a delivery not quite short

enough or bouncy enough for Graveney had no need to call on Lawrence again. The Gloucestershire captain started to make inroads himself into the Worcestershire middle order when he bowled Dipak Patel round his legs and then the medium-paced Curran played his part by tempting Neale to flick fatally at a leg-side delivery and besting Weston with a ball which must have

cut back sharply off the seam. The batsman looked perplexed when he shouldered arms and then saw the ball chip the top of middle stump.

At tea, Worcestershire were 45 for five, the only worry for Gloucestershire was the massive presence of Kapil. It is always fascinating to see the high-quality player rise above the constraints of a difficult pitch and this one had never been easy from the start with its variable, sometimes exceptionally low, bounce.

In the first innings Kapil played what must have been one of the most restrained innings of his adventurous life. His second 50 of the match was much closer to character, with the ball struck effortlessly and often to the boundary. That first 50 took 130 balls; this one just 55.

But Gloucestershire were so heavily insured against defeat that they could afford to let him indulge himself and wait for the blunder. It came when he had made 57 and his downfall was curiously tame as he pulled a short delivery from Walsh gently into the hands of Lloyd's, just backward of square.

Walsh, bowling with real pace in this spell, had already trapped Rhodes. He and he finished off the innings in short order by uprooting Illingworth's off stump and beating Radford on the back foot.

The Gloucestershire week, which had been in danger because of poor support, has been saved for at least a year. The city council have guaranteed £4,000 backing.

SOCCER IN BRIEF

Nicholl's Dell job

SOUTHAMPTON yesterday recruited their second successive manager from Grimsby when Chris Nicholl, the former Saints and Northern Ireland centre-half, was named as the new manager.

Nicholl, 38, who started his League career at Halifax has spent the last two years as assistant manager and player at Grimsby, after making 270 appearances for Southampton between 1977 and 1983. He will select his coaching team once he has settled into the job.

One of Nicholl's first tasks will be to try to persuade the England midfielder David Armstrong to stay at the Dell. The chairman Alan Woodford has already dismissed speculation that goalkeeper Peter Shilton may follow McMenamy to Sunderland.

THE POOLS companies yesterday dismissed newspaper reports that they are threatening to remove Football League clubs from their coupons and cut off financial support. Reports had said the Pools Promoters Association were upset by demands from the football authorities for more money, which it was suggested, would come from a new pools levy board.

But the PPA secretary Roger Calvert said: "We have not considered a levy as a serious possibility, and have certainly made no threats. We make an enormous contribu-



NICHOLL: Grimsby link

David Davies at The Belfry

Wary Marsh sees danger in the course

GOLF

All Graham Marsh has to do today is to go out onto the Belfry course, live on a knife edge for four hours, score a 70 or better, and he will earn himself £20,000.

That anyone is his estimate of what it will take to win the Lawrence Bailey International in which he has a two-stroke lead over Rick Hartmann with his six-under-par total of 210. Michael King is three shots behind and at five behind is a formidable trio in Sandy Lyle, Jose Maria Canizares and Roger Chapman.

DENNIS MORTIMER has been signed by Brighton. When the 33-year-old middle player was released by Aston Villa at the end of last season he decided to retire, but Chris Cattlin, Brighton's manager and former team-mate of Mortimer at Coventry, has persuaded him to join the Second Division club.

ALAN DAVIES must decide whether to leave Manchester United for Coventry — as a straight swap for Peter Barnes, who yesterday signed a two-year contract at Old Trafford. United agreed to pay £50,000 for Barnes, but no money will change hands if Davies, a Welsh international, agrees to go.

EVERTON, the League champions, are to tour Canada after the relaxation of FIFA's ban on English clubs playing abroad. They meet the Canadian national XI on July 31, followed by at least one further game against Toronto Blizzard.

Jacklin. He played the last three holes in three under and as a consequence is two ahead of his playing partner and a man he dearly wants in the team, Ken Brown.

Marsh, in general, played carefully controlled golf yesterday. The one hole where he was threatened was the eighth where he hit a one iron for his second at a hole measuring 480 yards but into a sliffish wind. The ball finished half in and half out of the stream bordering the green and Marsh, after removing shoes and socks, waded in and literally splashed out to 30 feet. It was a brave shot and was followed by a braver putt that fairly rattled into the hole for an unlikely par.

Rick Hartmann, 92nd in the Epson Order of Merit, played the best golf of his career yesterday. He was the only man in the field not to have a single bogey.

Marsh missed the cut in this event last year and has no illusions about what needs to be done today. "There is disaster on almost every hole out there," he said. "You can be playing really well and suddenly the course will turn against you and you have to accept a 76. You really do live on a knife's edge and a seven-shot lead is not enough to be sure. Anyone level or better is still in this tournament."

That brings in the American, D. A. Weir, the only other player to match par, although Howard Clark is only one over and there are only two players on two over. Neither can be said to have wrapped out a selectorial warning for the Ryder Cup for Roger Davis is an Aussie and not eligible and the other is already the captain and only selector, Tony

CYCLING

Charles Burgess with the Tour de France

Back seat job for Hinault

Bernard Hinault, the Frenchman who is heading for a record-equaling victory in the Tour de France, reiterated yesterday that next year he would not ride to win but to help the man who is his first lieutenant, and second at the moment, Greg Lemond, of the United States.

The 30-year-old Breton was 40 minutes late for a news conference at his hotel in the Alps above Grenoble on the only rest day, but that did not worry the 120 journalists who turned up. They knew he was the story — even if he had just blown his nose — and would have waited longer, even without the drinks provided by his management and named provided by the tour's official, accordant.

Every vantage point was taken as Hinault apologised for his lateness, having been on a 70-kilometre training run. The Japanese television cameraman sitting under the table, with a perfect shot of the back of Hinault's head, did not understand, but that did not matter. "The decision has already been taken," Hinault, the leader of the team, said. "Next year I will not be the captain; I will work for Greg or whoever is the team leader, that is up to them."

PAGE 15—Sherwen's cycle of domestic service.

At the front of the hotel Lemond, the 25-year-old Californian was holding court in a smaller press corps. The former world champion is assured of a grand future, if only because of a million-dollar contract with La Vie Claire.

Lemond is realistic enough to know that unless Hinault, who this year has 51-minute lead with a week to go, slows down any possible plan will not work. He said: "If Bernard rides next year as he is doing now, he will be ridiculous for him to ride for me."

One of the baffling questions in cycling is when does a team leader cease to be a team leader and, with Lemond and Hinault, this occupies the minds of many. Lemond, ever loyal to the man he regards as his elder brother rather than a close friend, refused to be drawn on whether he would attack and destroy his official boss if it came down to it. "There is no question of that happening because Bernard is so far ahead that no one can catch him."

What, I asked, if Hinault were to collapse on a mountain top, Lemond said: "If there was nothing I could do for him, I would leave him and go on for the good of the team."

Lemond was the second lieutenant to last year's winner, Laurent Fignon, and has since joined Hinault's team. He is still young but cannot for ever wait in other people's shadows. Still, Hinault, stronger than anyone this year, does not seem to be in any danger and said yesterday that he would be willing to lose time himself, although not the leader's yellow jersey, in order to preserve Lemond in second place. That will make things hard for the men lying in third and fourth place, the Irishmen, Stephen Roche and Sean Kelly. They know that whenever they consider making an attack Lemond will go with them. If he sits on the back and they have to work too hard they could endanger their position by wearing themselves out.

Evening racing

CHESTER
1.10 (10-11): 1. LEMELAGOR, D. Williams (10-11); 2. YOUNG KILPATRICK (10-11); 3. JAMES KELLY (10-11); 4. YOUNG KILPATRICK (10-11).
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CRICKET DIARY

Paul Fitzpatrick

Durham must dig deeper

WHATEVER HAPPENED to those ambitious plans a few years ago? Durham, who joined Northumberland in an effort to form the 18th first-class county? There is no shortage of county cricketers in the world, as Durham proved yet again when they defeated Derbyshire in the first round of the NatWest Trophy last week. Unfortunately, there is a shortage of cricketers who are good enough to play for Durham. The county's batting was abysmal, and they were forced to give up half a million pounds, says Durham's secretary, Jack Iley. "It might be a possibility, but I think the matter has been laid to rest for the foreseeable future."

One serious problem was that Durham do not own their own ground and the cost of bringing a number of venues up to county standards would have proved prohibitive. "The trouble too," says Iley, "is that although Durham have won considerable prestige for the county, the crowds have not justified the status of a first class county." An attendance of 2,000 for Durham's game with Northamptonshire at Darlington in the NatWest last week was especially disappointing.

The collapse of this particular dream — which Norman Graham, the former Kent bowler, has tried so enthusiastically to bring to fruition — would, one might have imagined, have sapped some of Durham's self-confidence. But Kent had better not believe that when they play them in the second round of the NatWest at Canterbury next Wednesday. Steve Atkinson and Stuart Wilkinson, both of whom have played their parts in past glories, return to the side and it is a measure of Durham's power that they will be hard pressed to find a place for Wasim Raja.

THE GAME ending yesterday between Gloucestershire and Worcestershire at the Winstanley Ground brought a confrontation between two counties who, since 1981, have been playing each other in the County Championship. Gloucestershire, who have been playing in the County Championship since 1981, are a more mature player these days... and certainly a more contented one.

A PLEASANT spot Alibour, especially the sun, shines. You could take a wide-angled photograph from the pavilion verandah and a lot of people might be stretched to identify an impressive sight that looks out over the Mersey estuary towards the Wirral and the Welsh hills beyond. There aren't many better batting wickets, either, but it's a pity the Liverpool club lets itself down so badly with its public relations. They played their cards incredibly close to their chest at Lancashire's game with Hampshire earlier this week. One announcement was made thanking the sponsors, and the public were left in the dark on a number of significant issues.

No one told them what had happened to the unfortunate Fowler; why Vasey did not open Lancashire's second innings; why Greenidge did not open Hampshire's second innings; and there was no enlightenment as to the substitutes for these injured players.

There are many contributory factors to why so few spectators now watch county cricket, but a disregard for the public has been one of them. Umpire Mervyn Kitchen's assertion earlier this week to the press that "what goes on in the middle is none of your business" is still sadly prevalent. Cricket has been the loser because of it.

THIS ENGLAND team, though, will prove tough to break onto, especially for batsmen. Another player, nevertheless, who must surely have excited the selectors' interest is Kim Barnett, now in the England squad. Barnett has accepted an enormous amount of responsibility since succeeding Barry Wood as Derbyshire skipper, not least that of opening the innings.

Mike Selvey at Lord's

Hadlee's mastery tips the balance

In a match which continued much good cricket and a deal of shoddy as well, Nottinghamshire beat Middlesex by five wickets at Lord's yesterday. They won comfortably enough, in spite of a late wobble, and deservedly so, for in what had been an even contest for two days, they played by far the more accomplished cricket on the last.

It took Barlow just one over in the morning to reach his first century in the century of the season before chipping a return catch to Hadlee, who then ran through the tall, leaving Nottingham to win in 92 overs.

There was one early upset when at 15, French, the makeshift opener, was caught at third slip by Carr. This was to the Middlesex's last success.

David Frost at Southend

Essex can thank Lever

Essex beat Somerset by 149 runs yesterday, hitting themselves from their unaccustomed place at the bottom of the championship table, thanks largely to the bowling of John Lever. He bowled unchanged throughout the Somerset second innings and returned his best figures of the season, six for 49.

This was only Essex's second victory of the season, the first having come in their very first match. Earlier in this encounter Lever was called upon to bowl slow spinners, but yesterday he bowled 20 overs at a fair pace, almost always forcing the Somerset batsmen to play a shot.

Essex declared their second innings at 181 for six, inviting Somerset to score 248 in 80 overs to win. With Roebuck as anchor, Somerset started by going for the runs but Lever struck his first blow in only his second over, getting Poplewell, who had scored 172 in the first innings, leg before for six.

Felton and Wyatt also fell cheaply and Somerset were 24 for three in the ninth over. At this juncture Marks saw it his duty to promote himself in the order, and scored a rapid 34 before becoming Lever's third victim in the 19th over. That was the end of Somerset's run chase, and the rest of the batsmen had to be binned out.

Rayward and Ollis both fell to Lever without addition to the score of 94, and the vital breakthrough came when Lever induced Roebuck to turn him to short leg where Pont took the catch. Roebuck had scored 13 in an obstinate innings of 31 overs and almost two hours' duration. The Somerset score was then 65 for seven, and they were all out for 98.

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until after tea as Broad, who batted steadfastly for the second time in the match, and Randall added a match-winning partnership of 173 in 46 overs.

Hadlee's innings of 115, his fifth championship hundred of the season, was a delight. He bounced and fidgeted at the crease like a puppet on a string but he is in brilliant form. With exquisite timing and no little power, he was particularly strong on the backfoot (actually such was the bowling that he got little chance on the front) and apart from a mishit hook when he finally attempted the stroke, he made no real error.

Earlier, we were treated to a resumption of the best spell of seam bowling I have seen this year. Hadlee's seven for 34 were his best figures of the season, as he demonstrated

complete mastery of length and line, all at a brisk pace. Faded he may be, but this was high-class.

Unfortunately it also showed up the Middlesex seamers, who were frankly inept. Neil Williams, in particular, could have benefited by following Hadlee's method. He has all the attributes to be a top quality bowler but it is impossible to attack, as Hadlee demonstrated, without thrashing the middle out of the wicket. Nor does Hadlee bowl low balls.

One over sums it up. When Randall was 48, he received three harmless bouncers, a leg stump half-volley, despatched for four, and a good length ball which tore out his middle stump before he could blink. Regrettably it was a no ball, Nuff said?

David Lacey at Portsmouth

Mendis has hard pill to swallow

Far from taking advantage of Middlesex's discomfort yesterday, Hampshire had the worst of their draw with Sussex at Portsmouth. They always struggled to answer the challenge to score 327 in 83 overs and finished 114 runs short, with the ninth wicket power anxiously fending off the pace bowlers.

For cricket statisticians the greater disappointment was the timing of Barclay's declaration which came when Geban Mendis was four runs short of completing his fifth hundred for Sussex in half-a-dozen first-class innings.

This would have been the best performance for the county with the bat since C.B. Fry's six centuries in a row in 1901 and the first time such a hat-trick had been achieved for Sussex since John Langridge's four successive hundreds in 1949. Only 11 players in cricket history, including Bradman, who has achieved the feat twice, have scored five hundreds in six innings.

Just how people won't think of a voter and write, "Barclay's turn to go," would need two more overs had been proved correct. All Mendis could do was keep taking the pills.

Adrian Plevin (11) and Dean Hoffman (five not out).

Northamptonshire and Derbyshire called off their quest for a result four overs early at Northampton. Derbyshire, needing 280 to win, were left at 182 for six.

Richard Williams had looked the Northants match-winner as he picked up five for 64 in 50 overs with his spinners to leave Derbyshire struggling at 154 for six with 18 overs left. But Paul Newman and Roger Finney held firm.

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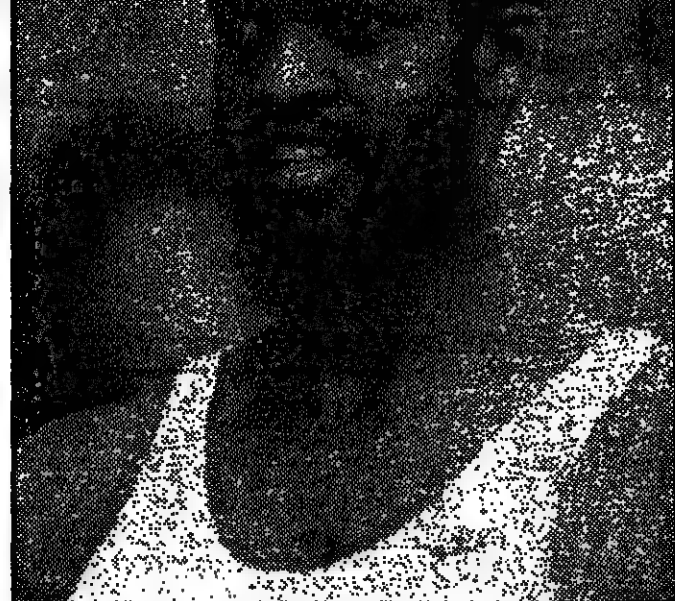
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LONDON CALLING... Willie Banks, world triple jump record-holder and distinguished visitor at the AAA Championships

Martin Searby at Maidstone

Cowdrey's reward

AN ENTERPRISING declaration by Chris Cowdrey set up a second successive victory for Kent at Motte Park, where Yorkshire were lured into chasing 299 in 46 overs and might have done it but for a dreadful start and an astonishing spell by Underwood, as deadly as ever in his 40th year, who had four for eight in 18 overs.

On a pretty good batting wicket, Cowdrey's main concern was that he needed time to winkle out the tail and there were less than six overs in hand when Shaw edged to slip, making it a fine piece of judgement.

Yorkshire, with a dismal record of 1-100, came to chasing targets, were 25 for three in no time, with Boycott changing his mind over a single and leaving Metcalfe stranded without facing a ball. Fate was making a turn to the 44-year-old opener, and when Love powerfully straight-drove, Jarvis got his hand to it and deflected it on to the wicket with Boycott out of his ground.

Sharp played round a straight one and Boycott was left before the pugnacious Rainford hit his side back into contention. With Love, 65 runs came in 13 overs. Then Underwood was introduced, edged a half-paced catch, short left. Carrick was taken at silly point off a ball that turned to give the left-hander two for one in four balls, and Yorkshire put the shutters up too late.

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No one told them what had happened to the unfortunate Fowler; why Vasey did not open Lancashire's second innings; why Greenidge did not open Hampshire's second innings; and there was no enlightenment as to the substitutes for these injured players.

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SPORT IN BRIEF

BOWLS: An England team fairly bristling with class bowlers retained the Gateway Home International Trophy at Worthing yesterday, defeating Ireland 104-84 in the last match of the day, writes Patrick Sullivan.

England's victory completes a hat-trick of wins in the championship. Earlier in the day Scotland evaded the wooden spoon by defeating Wales 107-85.

BOXING: Colin Jones returns to the ring in September hoping for a fourth world title chance against the winner of Sunday's fight in Monte Carlo between Milton McCrory of the United States and the Panamanian challenger Carlos Treviño. London promoter Frank Warren will be in Monte Carlo to offer the winner terms to meet Jones in the autumn, either in Birmingham or Cardiff.

RESULTS

Cycling
WOMEN'S TUNIS TRIUMPH—Sue H. Cullen (4) 33m 55s, 2nd, L. Long (4) 34m 55s, 3rd, C. Cullen (France) 35m 55s, 4th, S. C. Cullen (France) 36m 55s, 5th, S. C. Cullen (France) 37m 55s, 6th, S. C. Cullen (France) 38m 55s, 7th, S. C. Cullen (France) 39m 55s, 8th, S. C. Cullen (France) 40m 55s, 9th, S. C. Cullen (France) 41m 55s, 10th, S. C. Cullen (France) 42m 55s, 11th, S. C. Cullen (France) 43m 55s, 12th, S. C. Cullen (France) 44m 55s, 13th, S. C. Cullen (France) 45m 55s, 14th, S. C. Cullen (France) 46m 55s, 15th, S. C. Cullen (France) 47m 55s, 16th, S. C. Cullen (France) 48m 55s, 17th, S. C. Cullen (France) 49m 55s, 18th, S. C. Cullen (France) 50m 55s, 19th, S. C. Cullen (France) 51m 55s, 20th, S. C. Cullen (France) 52m 55s, 21st, S. C. Cullen (France) 53m 55s, 22nd, S. C. Cullen (France) 54m 55s, 23rd, S. C. Cullen (France) 55m 55s, 24th, S. C. Cullen (France) 56m 55s, 25th, S. C. Cullen (France) 57m 55s, 26th, S. C. Cullen (France) 58m 55s, 27th, S. C. Cullen (France) 59m 55s, 28th, S. 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WEEKEND SPORT: THREE

Mystery of the Red Float incident

Brian Clarke, author of Pursuit of Stillwater Trout, begins a series of occasional articles on angling with an account of how he got hooked

her innocence and light and school holidays and bicycle rides and bright red Oros tins packed with sandwiches and excitement and first experience of a thousand kinds. Nothing in life will have the same mesmerism as a float on still water. And nothing will prove as riveting, as that same magical object waiting and gliding down a fast-moving stream, curving to the bite of a fish, this time a monster. I use floats less often now: I go coarse fishing less. Trout have become my first love. And yet still I fish a float most summers, somewhere. I have a lifetime's collection to choose from — long floats, short floats, thin floats, fat floats. I've got cork bungs big enough to moor a boat, for pike floats, for dace and roach; antennae floats for fishing in the wind, slider floats for plugging the deep, transparent floats made to look like bubbles.

Yet when I reach for them in the next couple of weeks my choice will not be based on technical grounds. I can get technical about trout. But I don't often want to be about floats. My attitudes are based largely on nostalgia, aided by idiosyncrasy.

So — though every float I possess will with me, I'll be dying to use just three. The most important float of all, my Bakelite, road-to-Damascus float, won't be there, of course. I lost that when I was about 12, hooking it from a bait on the post-Darlington Anglers' water on the other side of the bridge, where working-class lads were not allowed; marvellous chub water that curled under alders and oiled around a bend.

But the other Big Three will be there: the Red Float Incident float, the Swale Barbel Bagger and the Regional Dixon Irish Pond Walzer, special-memory floats more vividly described by their perennials, which left them

quill, the whole shape gradually getting center in detached slow motion.

After what must have been an age the spell finally snapped and I was fused and alert, my hand hovering over the rod-butt as though it were a six-gun, my eyes zooming in on the water. And there sat the float, motionless as before, still closing itself in the surface.

I could hear my heart still thumping, but the sense of relief was enormous. I hadn't missed one. Any bite is important to a small boy. But on that dark, still pool, who knows what might have been? I settled back again and relaxed.

And then, long moments later, through some slow permeation, something caught my eye: a faint wink of light, and the another: the faintest ebbing rings, several yards across. Rings which had my motionless float, dead-centre.

I grabbed the rod in a mixture of panic and dread and struck as hard as I could. There was nothing, absolutely nothing. No fish, no bait and to my disbelief, no hook either. The line had been bitten clean through, two inches above the hook.

Time passed. The whole day could have been a dream. But then the float slowly began to go down. I watched it disappearing, the water slowly blurring its shape, water and light welling up and glinting around the cork, over the



That's it. Simply one small boy on a high summer's pond experiencing a surreal moment that has marked him for life.

David Davies looks at the strain of rivalry between Bernhard Langer and Severiano Ballesteros as Royal St George's beckons

Two kings of Europe vie for Open crown

THE picture editor of the French sports newspaper, L'Equipe, had a good idea why not get Severiano Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer, two of the best golfers in the world, to pose together at one end of the Champs Elysees, with the Arc de Triomphe in the background symbolising their superiority over the rest of Europe?

Both men were staying within a short stroll of the desired spot, and when approached, Langer, the US Masters champion, agreed immediately. However, Ballesteros, the Open champion, took a different approach, having patiently listened to the proposal, he said: "I will do it, but only on my own; there will be no Langer."

The result is the picture you see on the right. Picture editors, no more than anyone else, do not like to be dictated to.

But perhaps more interesting than the picture is the attitude revealed by Langer. Langer is a controlled and courteous man, always willing to help and quite capable, for instance, of conducting an interview over lunch if that is what is required.

Ballesteros is totally a man of mood. At times he will talk almost non-stop, for an hour or more; at others he will be almost as elusive, or at best, answer questions on the run, making briskly for the locker-room. He can be an infinitely attractive person than Langer, and he can also be a boor.

It is hardly surprising, certainly to those who deal with him day to day, that Ballesteros refused to share that Parisian stage with Langer. There is no doubt in the Spaniard's mind about who is the best golfer in Europe — or, come to that, the world.

Ballesteros is his own No. 1, and while he bears Langer no personal animosity there is, I suspect, a considerable golfing antagonism. No one is allowed to have his head higher, in a golfing sense, than Severiano, and that element of inferior superiority which will make for a fascinating confrontation in the 1985 Open Championship at Royal St George's next week.

The two men will be, for many, the pre-championship favourites. Ballesteros, with four majors to his credit, will have the edge in the betting over Langer, who as yet has only one. But you have to go back to pre-war days for the last instance of Europeans being the favoured candidates for the Open. It adds more than a little spice to the proceedings that while each man respects the other's performance they seem not to like each other much.

The first sign that their rivalry had an edge to it came in the Suntory World Matchplay Championship last year: the two men were to meet in the final, and to the consternation of the assembled press corps who were interviewing Langer after the semi-final, he had a go at Ballesteros's no-course manners. "He is not an easy man to play with," the West German said. "He intimidates you."

By that, it turned out, he meant that Ballesteros almost literally never speaks to a partner or opponent during a round. Langer, not accustomed to that kind of treatment, had taken it in the past as being the cold shoulder.

He had reason to suspect that might be as because in 1981, when as leader of the Order of Merit he had a place on the selection panel for the Ryder Cup, he was one of those who voted not to include Ballesteros in the team. The Spaniard, you may remember, had had his difficulties with the European Tour that year over appearance money, and had quite



ONLY A DRIVE AWAY... Bernhard Langer points to the Arc de Triomphe — a symbolic gesture

Sherwen's cycle of domestique service

THERE ARE 158 riders left as the Tour de France enters its final week and the man lying last is Paul Sherwen, the 36-year-old Briton. He is nearly 24 hours behind the leader, Bernard Hinault, but his position and time matter not a jot to him or his La Redoute team.

For Sherwen is not and never was, riding the Tour to win. That is the responsibility of his team leader, Stephen Roche, currently third. Sherwen's job is to help Roche at all times, sacrifice himself if necessary and not complain. He is a domestique, a member of the poor bloody infantry of the Tour and he is in good company. More than half the riders are already over an hour behind Hinault and will no doubt lose more time before Paris tomorrow week.

We spoke, over tea, in the garden of a cafe in Villard de Lans just after Sherwen had finished Thursday's individual time trial. At the last, man he had gone first and joked that as he crossed the line he had the best time of the day. He finished 164th.

He explained the job of a domestique, one that he has done for nine years in Europe, coming over here the day after he was awarded his degree in paper technology at Manchester University.

"What I had to do in the time trial was to get round without getting eliminated and the allotted time," said Sherwen. You get a map of the course, you work out what the winner will do and then attempt to finish within 25 per cent of his time.

"It is a waste of energy to try anything else for I have to be fit for the stages when I can help Stephen. Even if I tried as hard as I could I would only finish 70th or 80th in a time trial so there is no point."

He continued: "I was an amateur when I first came to France and in six months I was the second best in France. I turned pro with a lot of hopes but I turned pro for the wrong team and did not have anyone to explain things to me. After three years I realised I was not going to be a star. But there was nothing degrading about it. Everybody has their limitations and it is just something you have to accept. I realised



Paul Sherwen (above) will not win the Tour de France but could decide who does. Charles Burgess reports on the modern Jeeves on wheels

BRIDGE Rixi Markus

THE Juan les Pins Festival, Europe's premier bridge event, starts with a three-session individual competition, followed by a five-session championship pairs, a three-session mixed pairs, and finally, a three-session teams of four — a total of 13 days of concentrated bridge. 550 pairs competed in this year's pairs championship, and over 300 pairs in the mixed event.

I have been going to the Juan les Pins Festival for nearly 30 years — this was the 36th Festival at Juan — and I particularly noticed this year how much the general standard of the average players has improved. There were very few poor players, and the top players now have to work very hard to achieve good results. 1985 was the year of the Polish champions, who took first and second place in the main event; furthermore, Mariens of Poland came second in the mixed pairs with Mme Desrousseaux of France.

Here is a deal from the mixed pairs which I enjoyed. North dealt with East-West vulnerable.

North		East	
5432	K10974	8	K5
A10974	K10	JB	962
A10	A10974	K10983	Q6

South		West	
AQJ106	K5	15	2C
K5	962	4S	NB
7543	AQJ106	4S	NB

West led the ace and another diamond against my contract of 4S. I won the second diamond in dummy and finessed the queen of spades which held the trick. A club to dummy was followed by a second spade finesse, and I drew East's last trump, and paused to take stock.

(1) This hand obviously qualifies for an opening bid. But West was an avid point-counter. (2) I do not mind light third in hand openings, but only in a suit which you want your partner to lead. (3) Strong, but not forcing. West led the ace and another diamond. I won with the king and convinced that West held A-10-x-x of trumps, I ran the eight of spades at trick three. To my surprise, East won with the ten and returned another diamond. I ruffed high and played another spade to the queen and ace. Having ruffed the diamond continuation, I cashed two more trumps, discarding two hearts from dummy. Fortunately, West also elected to come down to two hearts and three clubs, and I was able to duck a heart and make the nine of hearts as my ninth trick. "I had to double, partner," murmured West. "I had eleven points."

© Rixi Markus

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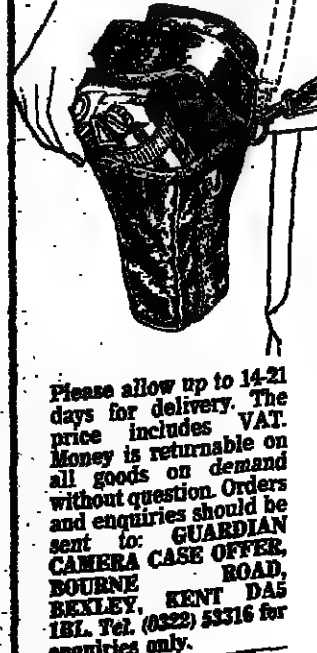
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vice

DIARY

CIVIL servants in the Ministry of Defence have learned that Mr Peter Levene, Mr Michael Heseltine's £35,000-a-year private import, comes not alone but as a package. He has brought his secretary with him. She will be paid £11,067 a year by Mr Levene's firm, United Scientific Holdings, who will reclaim it from the MoD. An equivalent Civil Service secretary would cost between £8,000 and £8,000, plus £1,300 London allowance. "Insult to injury," claim the Civil Service unions.

THIS week's City Limits magazine has two adverts on the same page. "Motoring the Christ in London and Aerial Recognition," reads one. "Hear Arthur Scargill," says the other. Both events are at the same time on the same day in the same place — Friends House, Euston Road.

DAVID HART, the Lord Lucas-like who was so active on behalf of the working miners, is also a novelist. The erstwhile high-living Times columnist-cum-Suffolk farmer-cum-Number 10 adviser, has penned a tale called Eagle, to be published next year by Muller, Blond and White. Eagle has two natures: man-nature and eagle-nature, beginning, and ending up the novel in a mental institution. Not a barrel of laughs by the sound of it, but there may be some humour to be found from the character of "Prime Minister Eubulent," him being so fond of our own real-life brilliant PM.

NEVILLE BEAL, the Conservative GLC member for Barnet, rings to insist (this column yesterday) that the GLC is by no means emasculated and is possessed of what he calls "ample spherical pertinences." I ring Mr Livingstone's office with the news. "Ah, but it hasn't got a wozzi," replies an assistant. I put this in touch with Mr Beal. These are not matters of this nature to become embroiled in.

THOSE KGB watchers who have been keeping a friendly eye on the 11 MPs from the select committee on Foreign Affairs during their Moscow jaunt had expected a quiet evening when the group was booked into the Bolshoi for the customary night of ballet. No such luck. Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham 5, who conceals the brain that is an Oxford scholar in geography beneath a deceptively dogged exterior, had other plans in mind. A keen student of public transport, Comrade Spearing set off to explore the Moscow metro. All 10 lines, 200 kilometres, and 120 stations. It was this he paid the sum of five kopeks, or five pence. Mr Spearing much enjoyed his exploration. His efforts were less amused, doubtless convinced much more was up to some of the more sinister than collecting ammunition for the next debate on London Regional Transport.

THE MIRROR is searching for "Britain's super hunt" our answer to Rambo who will win a fortnight for two in Los Angeles. Wallies, winners and weaklings do not apply," continues the competition blurb. "Only REAL men read the Mirror." Oh yeah? What's the prize for three-quarter page ad for hunters doing ten pages later?

A PROMISING start to the competition to find the most apt Sun column by entries to imply. This one from Christopher Benfield of Manchester:

"Welcome to this weekly look at religion (but not away!) and its interest in the Pope. But who would on a rather spend a week on a deserted island with Val Doonican or Arthur Koestler?"

"Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry, I think you say, eh? So I listen with interest when Sir Rupert Murdoch explains about expenses."

Or, there is the offering from Stanley Alderson from Cambridge:

"It is a great joy to speak to the many readers of Brother Sun. For indeed, the prayer of the young St Augustine shines out there. Give our readers chastity and continence — only not yet."

Alan Rusbridger

DR. WILFRED COXON is still angry. It is more than 40 years since he had his battle with the wartime bureaucracy of the Ministry of Aircraft Production. The tussle concluded with the unforgiving powers that be trying unsuccessfully to stop him getting an official award for his wartime inventions. Since then the Official Secrets Act has gagged him.

At the age of 75 he has had enough. Sitting in his daughter's farmhouse in Dyfed he fumes at the thought of the young lives wasted in Bomber Command in the first half of the Second World War. In all, 55,573 men died in the 8,325 British bombers lost throughout the battle. It need not have been that many.

The limp hand of officialdom, he says wittily, delayed the introduction of the tools he developed to allow air crews accurately to carry out the grim job of destroying Nazi war production and to get away from the target quickly and safely.

He has decided it is time for the story to be told. "What can they do to me at my age?" he muses. He is convinced that the system he battled against has changed little and that there cannot be enough public warnings about the nature of officialdom. He cites the blatant lies of the Falklands campaign to make his point about the unchanging nature of Whitehall.

In the age of satellites, inertial guidance, and other high-technology aids to navigation it is hard to credit the rudimentary way in which bombers flew to their targets in the early stages of the 1939-45 war. Their stumbling progress produced incidents which would have been farcical had they not cost a number of innocent people their lives.

The first raid suffered by the Germans came in May 1940 when Freiburg was attacked in broad daylight. The 57 deaths included a group of children in a school playground. Local outrage was quickly stifled when investigation showed that the attack had come not from the British but from Hitler's own aircraft, convinced they were bombing the French town of Mulhouse.

Nor was it only German navigation which could generate an error of 30 miles in a short daytime flight. The day after the war had started a British Wellington bomber attacked Esbjerg in neutral Denmark, 110 miles from its assigned target. Dr Coxon recalls how aircrews carrying out the early attacks on Germany had to steer by dead reckoning. After they had crossed the North Sea they had to check they were on the right course by looking out of the cockpit window to see if they could spot a complex of Dutch oil storage tanks.

When the raid on Esbjerg had to drop flares at regular intervals so they could pick out landmarks — a wonderful signal to the German air defence network of the bombers' progress. The failure of the British to do this was a disaster. Germany had been laid down in the late thirties in a series of Cabinet documents called Western Air Plans, running from WA1 to WA16. They covered everything from covering German installations (WA1) to mining Germany's canals (WA16). The most significant plan turned out to be WA5 — the maximum possible reduction of the German war industry. Most of Britain's original air attack was based on that.

There was, however, a yawning gap between Cabinet aspirations and reality. The wavering strategic debate about the composition of the air force had so delayed orders for new aircraft that the largest element of Bomber Command was the single-engined Fairey Battle, a virtually useless machine which had failed most of its pre-production tests, and which the Air Council had wanted to scrap well before the war started. Official decision and confusion, however, ensured that 3,100 of these light bombers had been built by the end of 1940.

As if these were not sufficient handicaps, there was the performance of the men flying these doubtful machines. Air Chief Marshal Sir Edgar Ludlow-Hewitt had told the Cabinet in July 1938 that given good weather, it would take 500 bombers averaging five flights each no more



Above: the ruins of Essen (the comparatively undamaged building in the background is the synagogue). Right: Dr Wilfred Coxon (picture by John Barnes). Below: the Mosquito — Spearhead of the Pathfinder Force

HAROLD JACKSON meets the inventor of a device which could have saved lives in Bomber Command

The unsung pathfinder



than one month to lay waste to the war production capacity of the Ruhr. It is hard to imagine the basis for this assessment.

A year previously a precision bombing exercise had found that the average crew missed its target by 250 yards, and that even the best performers rarely got nearer than 150 yards. Secret studies of Nazi bombing results in the Spanish civil war had shown that the standard 250lb and 500lb bombs then in service "had extraordinary little power of penetration even when they actually hit the target."

The Air Ministry had resisted the development of specialised navigators until April, 1938, — on the classic Treasury argument that extra training would qualify them for a pay increase. Until then the maximum navigational skill was what-aver the men could attain during a four-week course. The results showed up in various exercises. One dummy bombing mission on a crystal clear summer day established that 40 per cent of the crews were incapable even of locating the target.

This was the climate in which Bomber Command entered the war. Given the rate of aircraft production, of crew training, and the maintenance needs of the force, strategic analysts had determined that losses of more than 5 per cent during continuous operations would cripple the command. By the time of the Dunkirk evacuation, daylight raids on the enemy (which offered the most favourable navigational conditions) had generated losses of 11.5 per cent. The 590 night time raids over the same period had produced only a quarter that casualty rate. The logic was inexorable — future bomber attacks

took place under cover of darkness.

So, on the night of May 15, 1940, 99 British aircraft attacked oil refineries and railway facilities in the Ruhr, the real start of the Bomber Command offensive. Because no contemporary bomber was ever able to reach 300mph the region was chosen less for its military significance than that it represented the longest return shortening spring nights. This pragmatic approach also decreed that pilots were allowed to pick their own take-off and arrival time and the height at which they released their bombs.

The results claimed by the air crews in the post-attack debriefing usually sounded good. But they were hardly borne out by the subsequent photo-reconnaissance. The truth was that the airmen had little if any idea what they had hit: the photos disclosed that only about 5 per cent of the listed targets suffered significant damage, a pattern which persisted for more than two years.

In August 1941 an official bombing survey of 100 major raids revealed that only about 30 per cent of 4,065 aircraft had come within five miles of their designated aiming point. The Air Ministry decreed that precision bombing "is beyond Bomber Command's capabilities."

Yet the problem had been foreseen as long as eight years before when the Operational Requirements Branch of the Air Ministry had called for the development of a target indicator bomb, a long-burning flare to be dropped at the start of an attack as the marker for all the following aircraft. By giving the crews an easily visible aiming point this would not only increase the

accuracy of their attack but cut down the time they had to spend over the target and therefore the casualty rate.

Yet no one seemed able to find the answer to this basic — and evidently crippling — gap in the bombers' arsenal, though there was no lack of imaginative suggestions. Someone in the civil service proposed that a giant Roman candle be dropped, to sputter away on the target as the planes homed in. Those actually flying the missions wondered how they would see the candle if it fell inside a large building, how it was supposed to stay upright when it hit concrete, and how quickly the Germans would work out a way of smothering it or putting their own decoy candle in the middle of open country.

The discussion bogged down in an endless war of memoranda. On March 27, 1939, six months after Munich and with war clearly inevitable, Air Commodore John Slessor, the RAF's Director of Operations, wrote to the Director of Operational Requirements, Air Commodore Robert Sandbury, saying:

"I would be grateful if you could let me know what progress has been made with marker bombs since 1937."

Sandbury's answer came back on April 5:

"You will remember that the informal discussion you called in October 1938 to review aids to night bombing did not result in any recommendations regarding marker bombs."

He nonetheless reviewed the latest position:

"A: The parachute flare is of very limited value. B: The incendiary bomb used as a mark is also not very much use. C: The projected flare has yet to be tried but I am not very hopeful as to its utility."

On May 19, Whitehall moved in its own inimitable way:

"D of Ops (For the attention of Wg Cdr Mills), D of Plans (For the attention of Sq Ldr Bennett), DSD (For the attention of Wg Cdr Brown). Following our informal discussion yesterday I have decided to open a new file on this subject."

On June 15 an early entry in the new file came from Wing Commander Brown. "At present," he wrote, "Bomber Command can only guarantee an accuracy of five miles at night so that anything which can improve on this is acceptable."

The files read like an Esling comedy script, except that air crews were being shot out of the sky by the increasingly effective German air defences. The British planes had to spend up to 30 minutes flying around trying to locate their target. Their bombing became almost a total waste of time as they were forced by the anti-aircraft fire to release their loads from greater and greater heights.

No one in the Air Ministry had envisaged bombing from above 10,000 feet and Bomber Command's standard ballistic tables were calculated from the performance of the 11lb practice bomb dropped from markedly lower heights. They were hardly appropriate to the conditions of real life. Dr Coxon, fresh from lecturing in chemistry at the Regent Street Polytechnic, had already had a fight with the Ministry establishment over his photographic flare, though it eventually helped to document the lamentably poor results of the bombing offensive.

He now hit a new barrier in the increasingly urgent search for a successful target

indicator. The Air Staff specification required the marker to be visible for ten miles from 15,000 feet and to burn for 15 to 30 minutes. It was also to fit the bomb racks used for the existing 250lb bomb. The effort to produce a workable version carried on through the first year of the war but failed diametrically in part because of the inadequacy of the available flares.

The Ordnance Board evaluation concluded that "The flare as designed at present would take a very long time to produce. Moreover it is hard to see how it could be standardised if it is to meet requirements." The Board recommended, therefore, that the Air Staff be asked to reconsider the requirement before further design work is put in hand.

That set the bureaucratic pattern. The failure of the official attempt led to the inescapable conclusion that the task must be impossible. On June 18, 1940 Bomber Command minuted grimly "Marker bombs should be deleted from the present list of operational requirements." The mood coloured all future discussions of the project, though there were tricky political problems.

Churchill had developed a personal interest in the project and Dr Coxon's boss, Charles Lea, noted warily in an official memorandum that "It will be necessary to inform the Chief of Air Staff that we recommend the abandonment of the pyrotechnic marker bomb, since it was originated by a member of the Prime Minister."

Dr Coxon, meanwhile, started conducting his own, totally unauthorised, experiments — a rash step for a young, recently arrived technical officer in the Directorate of Armament Develop-

ment. He discovered a hoard of empty 250 lb gas bomb cases which he stuffed with the business ends of several incendiary bombs. In June 1941 a ground-based experiment at Boscombe Down showed that exploding the incendiaries from the casing produced a fiery oval pattern easily seen from the spotter aircraft.

The solo official response to the experiment was a scepticism for carrying out unauthorised testing. There was also a more practical problem — the standard air-burst fuses then available could not function above 10,000 feet. Dr Coxon discussed the problem with an engineer friend, Mr Jack Imber, marketer of the Aladdin paraffin heater and originator of pink paraffin.

Imber invented a new fuse which not only did the job but was far easier to manufacture than those in use. Thousands of Imber's new weapons used later in the war. But because they relied on combustion these Imber fuses could not operate in the thin atmosphere above 30,000 feet. Imber then developed a barometric fuse which quickly went into operational use in spite of an official appreciation from the Ordnance Board declaring that it was based on unsound principles and could not possibly work.

The successful clandestine test of the barometric fuse at Boscombe Down, carried out with the help of a photo-reconnaissance unit commander who was officially testing flares, generated a huge row in which Dr Coxon was formally charged with carrying out unauthorised trials which endangered the aircraft and its crew. The reconnaissance commander's sympathetic evidence got the charge dropped, but the atmosphere remained poisonous.

This impasse might well have lasted for the rest of the war had not an RAF observer, surveying a raid on Essen on March 5, 1942, commented in his official report: "I was extremely disappointed at the dispersed nature of our attack. I was, however, greatly impressed by the appearance from the air of a free stick of incendiaries dropped from a Stirling aircraft. It is similar sticks of incendiary bombs could be given a distinctive colour or colours they would form an ideal marker bomb."

Dr Coxon made one more effort to get his invention adopted. Through official channels and, being blocked yet again with the declaration that there was "no operational requirement" for the device, disclosed what was going on in an unofficial visit to Air Commodore S. O. Buton, deputy director of Bomber Operations.

On March 18, 1942, Buton put in a formal request that the marker bomb be restored to the RAF's operational requirements list. By the end of the month Dr Coxon had been given a free hand to develop his invention. In early July the marker was successfully demonstrated to Churchill's science adviser, Lord Kelvin, and to senior air force staff.

On July 7, a memorandum went out to the Assistant Chief of Air Staff. "We require the highest possible priority production at the rate of 500 per annum for a maximum per week. Dr Coxon of RDA/MS is, I understand, in a position to arrange for this on receiving a semi-production order."

With the tool finally available for the job, Air Commodore Buton set the pace to create the Pathfinder Force, formally established on August 11, 1942. At 8.58 pm on March 8, 1943, Mosquito aircraft of this force destroyed 17 of target indicators from 30,000 feet above the Krupp factory in Essen. Within 40 minutes more than 800 acres of the plant had been laid waste and 1,000 bombers, fourteen of the planes were shot down — a casualty rate of 3.5 per cent. Bomber Command's strike efficiency went from five per cent to 80 per cent.

Extract from the evidence of Air Marshal Sir Robert Sandbury to the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors, February 10, 1948:

"The importance of the marker bomb to our subsequent operations can hardly be over-estimated. It was, in fact, the keystone in the chain of all Pathfinder techniques."

And when William Makepeace Thackeray created the most selfless character in English literature who loves and is devoted, but never allows his devotion to waver, the nickname by which he is known is Dobbin.

I suppose that the irrational affection for horses, which characterises sane adults who have spent all their lives in cities, is the result of childhood indoctrination. We were rocked on them. We are promised rides on their plebeian half brothers when we went for a summer's week by the sea. In our picture books, they carried the heroes of the empire, won the West, and pulled the crepe-draped gun carriages on days of royal mourning. The Light Brigade would not have travelled half a league onward without them. And the stories which we read about pit ponies were stories of hard work and sacrifice. No wonder that Lloyds Bank want to associate themselves in the public mind with a horse.

That great black stallion is, of course, very unlike a

bank in its character and behaviour. It runs wild and free over the open countryside, pausing only to exhibit its perfect profile from a vantage point on the skyline. But by its behaviour it associates the cheque books and overdrafts with the rural longings which are said to bubble about inside all city dwellers. It also produces subconscious thoughts of power and status. For horses are the preserve of the privileged. Peasants walk, which, no doubt, accounts for the middle class obsession with horse-bats, and snuff and knee-high boots. My only wish is that they would keep their horses out of the cities where I spend my time.

I recall being out to lunch one Sunday with the late John Newsome, author of one report on primary education which bore his name. Halfway through the soup, two horses appeared outside the urban window. "I trust," said Sir John, "that they come from a circus. I should not like to be in the sort of suburb where people ride."

Amen to that.

ENDPIECE

Roy Hattersley

UNTIL last weekend, it had been my good fortune to avoid close contact with horses. Driven to excess by years of wartime austerity, my father occasionally asked me to nip out into the road, with pan and brush, and col-

lect what he coyly called "the milkman's nag." And during the re-creation of Camelot which was the last Labour Government, I could see from my seat at the Cabinet table the troop of Household Cavalry which made its way back to Knightsbridge Barracks at eleven o'clock each morning with bugles blowing, guidons flying, and coats carefully draped over the flanks across which they sat. But I never actually bumped into a horse.

But last Saturday, one bumped into me — quite intentionally. On being introduced, I had stepped politely forward to greet it. My gesture of goodwill was immediately reciprocated with what I can only describe as an old-fashioned shoulder charge. But it was not that single act of unprovoked aggression which prejudiced me against the beast. Horses — as I discovered from close quarters — are ridiculous in themselves. Only the genius of a Stubbs could make them look elegant. Delacroix

painted them as the prancing partners of martial triumph. But that was because he saw la gloire in everything. Horses are intrinsically funny looking.

The bovine-horse which assaulted me, was, his handler assured me, a prince among animals. It had spindly legs and veins which ran so close to the skin that I feared they would pop out. But these apparent defects were described as signs of breeding — not emulation, and I was urged to examine its "good mouth." This splendid feature was set in a muzzle which I patted in the way which I know is much appreciated by dogs. It emitted exactly the sound which is produced by knocking on wood. The result was not, for me, the good fortune which that action is supposed to bring. The horse stood on my foot.

I found it impossible to continue the conversation. With dogs, I can talk for hours. Discussing the way they have spent their day chasing imaginary rabbits, sniffing at the foot of lamp

posts, and rolling in whatever decaying substances they can find. But horses do none of these interesting things. They just stand about waiting to be climbed on and ridden off. Horses, I have now decided, are imbued with a single virtue — they have a highly-developed fear for public relations.

Putting aside the depressing large proportion of the population which seeks out the company of horses, because equine companionship demonstrates membership of the middle classes, horses are popular because of the false image of themselves which they have insinuated into our literature. Black Beauty is beaten by the coal-heaver who originally owned her. The dream house in Crime and Punishment personifies (or horifies) the man to whom man is inhuman. Scarlet O'Hara whips her horse into coronary collapse and the audience at the matinee of Gona With The Wind forget about Atlanta being burned to the ground and its citizens being harried by Sherman's victorious army. All that matters is the heaving flanks and rolling eyes between the shafts.

Browning told us that whatever the good news was that was carried from Aix to Ghent, the horses which carried the men who carried it expired in devoted exhaustion as soon as their essential work was done. If he had gone on to explain that the avaricious French sold their carcasses for

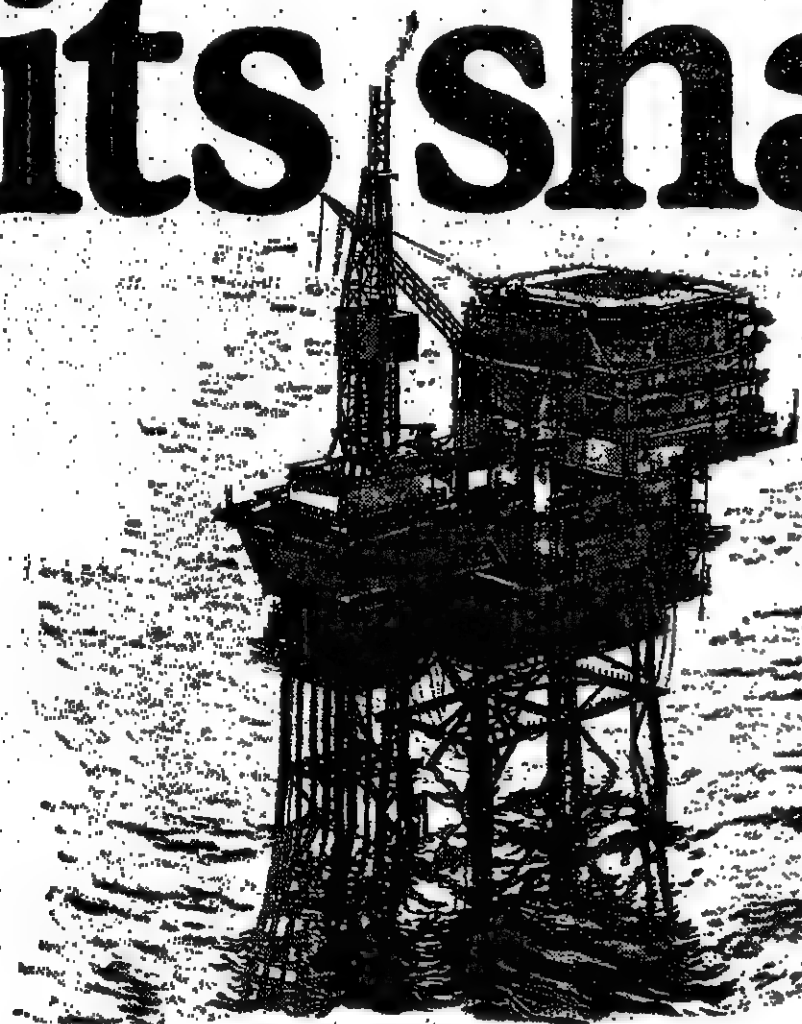
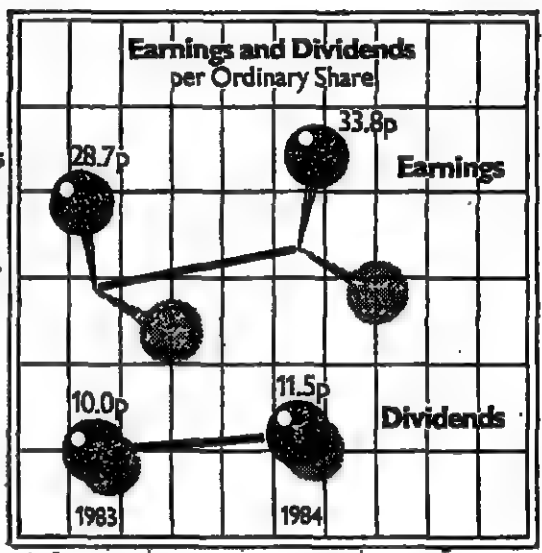
human consumption, he would not have been the sort of man whom Elizabeth Barrett was prepared to marry.

Have you ever heard of a cowboy being betrayed by his palomino, or a damsel in distress being deserted by her palmy? Admittedly Alice's White Knight was always being thrown from the saddle. But the Knight was Gladstone and the horse was Ireland — so the usual rules do not apply.

The usual rules are that literary horses are kind and gentle. They do not exploit; they are exploited. Black Beauty is beaten by the coal-heaver who originally owned her. The dream house in Crime and Punishment personifies (or horifies) the man to whom man is inhuman. Scarlet O'Hara whips her horse into coronary collapse and the audience at the matinee of Gona With The Wind forget about Atlanta being burned to the ground and its citizens being harried by Sherman's victorious army. All that matters is the heaving flanks and rolling eyes between the shafts.

Look what's happened at Britoil since the Government sold 51% of its shares.

In 1984 Britoil's pre tax profits rose by 17% to £688,000,000. After tax profits rose from £143,000,000 to £169,000,000. In 1984 Britoil's earnings per Ordinary Share rose from 28.7p to 33.8p and net Dividends per Ordinary Share rose by 15% to 11.5p.



Britoil has the largest net exploration acreage of any company on the UK Continental Shelf. Last year Britoil was involved in drilling 48 new wells in the North Sea - more than anyone else.

In November 1982, Britoil became a publicly quoted company when the Government sold 51% of its shares to the public. Since then Britoil's achievements have been most impressive.

Britoil is one of the country's leading oil and gas companies. And it's one of the world's largest companies engaged primarily in exploration and production.

It has the greatest share of North Sea exploration acreage and a growing spread of overseas interests. Now the government has decided to offer its remaining shares for sale.

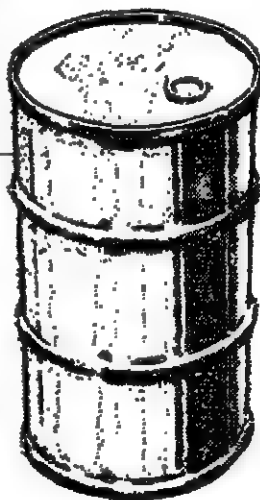
And, as in the past, it intends to give private individuals, not just City institutions, a full opportunity to apply for shares. That's why the Britoil offer is being widely publicised.

Subject to market conditions the offer is planned for the end of July.

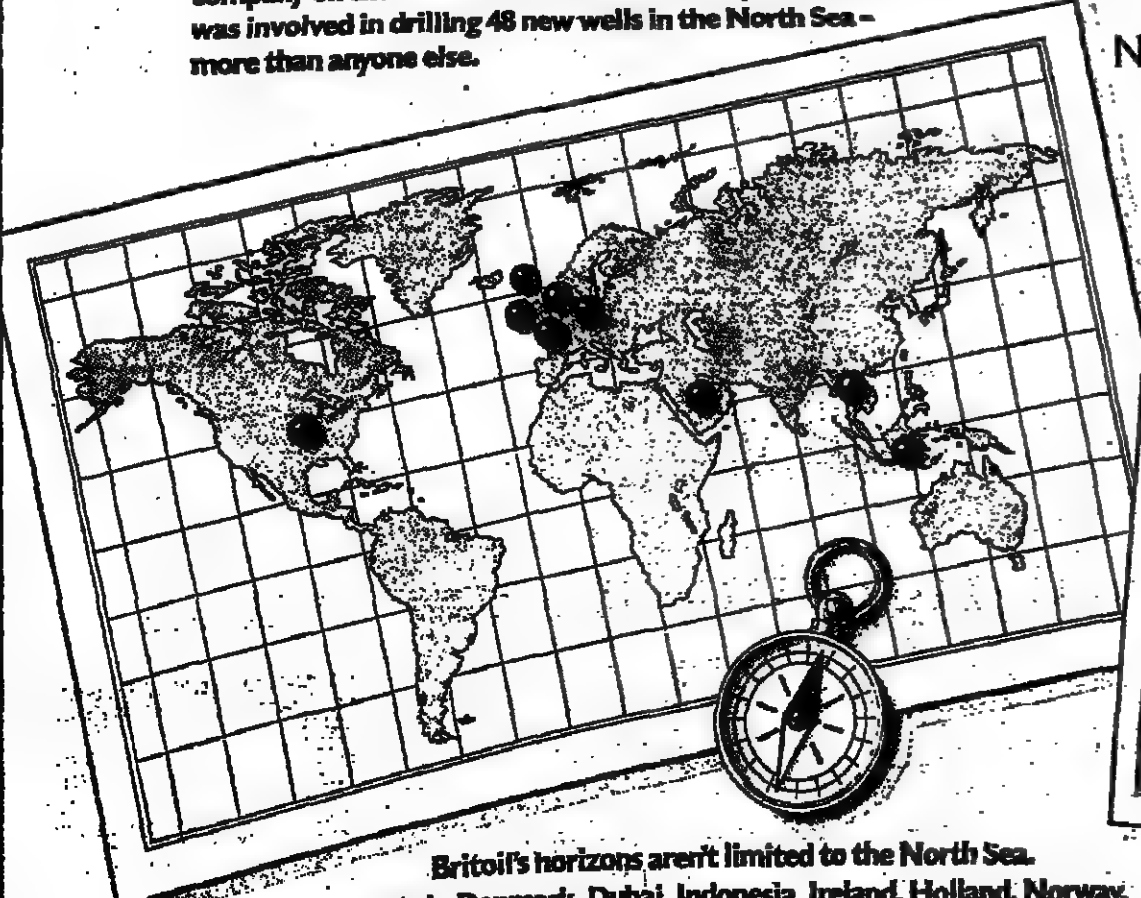
There will be just seven days in which to make an application for shares.

The Offer for Sale document and application form will be published in National Newspapers. Documents will also be available from all branches of National Westminster Bank, Barclays Bank and the Bank of Scotland.

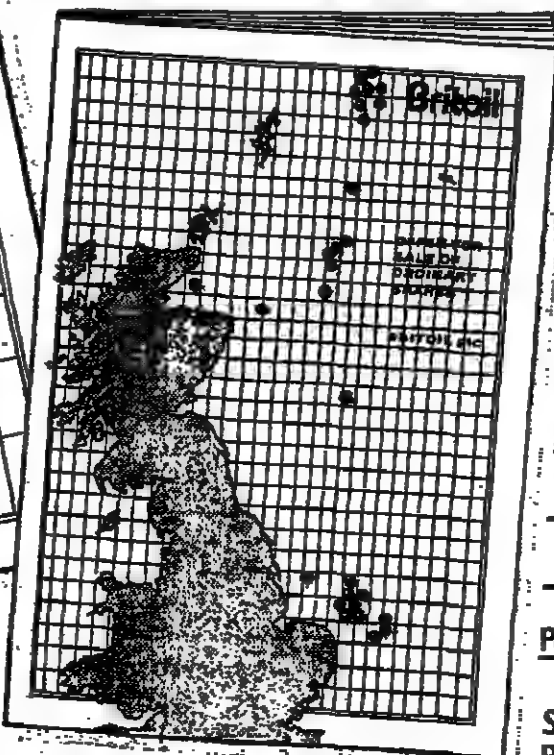
But you can ensure you receive an application form and a copy of the Offer for Sale as soon as they are available simply by filling in this coupon.



Last year Britoil produced 61,000,000 barrels of oil - nearly 6,000,000 gallons a day. In 1984 Britoil produced 69 billion cubic feet of gas.



Britoil's horizons aren't limited to the North Sea. It has interests in Denmark, Dubai, Indonesia, Ireland, Holland, Norway, Thailand and the U.S. And its overseas interests are expanding. At the end of 1984 Britoil's worldwide reserves stood at 554,000,000 barrels of oil and 916 billion cubic feet of gas.



Please send me more information about Britoil and reserve my copy of the Offer For Sale document, without obligation.

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Issued by Lazard Brothers & Co., Limited on behalf of H.M. Government.

COMPANY BRIEFING

Ho Jo problems hurt Imperial

Imperial Group, the Players cigarettes, Courage beers and Golden Wonder crisps combine, was nursing a nasty hangover yesterday as the stock market awoke to the bitter taste left by this week's interim profits announcement.

Imperial shares fell 5p to a new 1985 low of 162p at one stage, making a two-day fall of 17p since the group rolled out a disappointing 6 per cent rise in first-half profits. They later recovered to 166p.

Concern about the second-half outlook for tobacco and food division profits is being compounded by worries over the continuing milestone of the Howard Johnson subsidiary in America, where losses trebled in the opening six months of the financial year.

Imperial Group directors have been carrying out a review of the troublesome hotels, motor lodges and restaurants operation for the best part of a year but to the City's increasing frustration they appear no nearer to deciding how to resolve the situation.

Imperial is talking to a number of mainly American companies about the future of Ho Jo but is steadfastly maintaining the public line that it has not decided whether to retain the business.

Imperial acquired Ho Jo for \$630 million almost six years ago when the group was in the midst of a major restructuring. The subsequent decline in sterling means Imps can still expect to sell the business and

Buckley's keeps calm

BUCKLEY'S, the West Wales brewer, is taking a relaxed attitude towards the recent stake building carried out by Mr Nazam Virani of Belhaven Brewery Group.

The Scottish real ale brewer has been picking up shares in the Llanelli-based group this month and has lifted its holding to just over a million shares. At current stock market prices the 71 per cent stake is worth around £75,000.

Buckley's chairman, Mr Griffith Phillips, said the only contact with Belhaven had been two letters announcing the share purchases.

With 8 per cent of the shares held by the Buckley family and a further 30 per cent controlled by long-standing shareholders Whitebread and Britannia Assurance, he did not appear unduly concerned about the prospect of a takeover bid.

"I can't quite see what Mr Virani is trying to do beyond stake building," the Buckley's chairman said. "There has been no suggestion of a trading link-up."

Belhaven directors were not immediately available to comment.

Buckley's, which has a stake of almost 50 per cent in fellow Welsh brewer Felinfoel, pushed up profits from £245,000 to £253,000 last year but the directors have warned that results for the first six months of the current period will show a decline because of the poor spring weather and the miners' strike.

Buckley's shares have risen strongly since Belhaven started its buying spree. They closed up at 76p yesterday compared with the 50p at which they were changing hands two weeks ago.

make a profit in sterling terms.

Mr Colin Mitchell, outspoken brewing analyst at stockbroker Buckmaster and Moore, makes the point that the continued delay in reaching a decision means the group will recoup considerably less than it might have done earlier this year.

Since mid-February, when Imps announced its 1984 results and talked about making a decision "as soon as possible", sterling has fallen from \$1.09 to \$1.37, reducing the sterling value of Ho Jo by 30 per cent.

Buckmaster and Moore believes the announcement of any decision about the future of Ho Jo may be several months away.

"If this situation is correct," the brokers comment, "it im-

Clay snubs £12m offer

McCorquodale, the security printing, publishing and packaging firm, has made a £12.2 million all-share bid for Richard Clay, which prints Penguin and Mills & Boon books among others. The bid has been rejected as "totally inadequate".

McCorquodale is offering 10 of its shares for 11 Clay. McCorquodale's share eased 5p

yesterday to 180p, so its bid values Clay at 136.4p a share, against 144p in the market after a 40p jump yesterday. Clay shareholders have the option of selling their McCorquodale shares for 130p cash.

McCorquodale's chief executive, Mr John Wood, said, "We think that together we can offer a better service to publishers. There is an increasing polarisation in publishing, with larger publishers getting larger through growth and acquisitions, requiring a greater need for investment in advanced technology on the part of printers."

McCorquodale approached Clay about three weeks ago in the hope of persuading its rival to agree to the bid. Clay thinks that "more of the same" is not particularly to its advantage, and certainly not at the offer price.

Charles Birchall, Clay's chairman, said, "We are already the leaders in book manufacture and we think a merger would jeopardise our relations with publishers. Particularly in paperback. We have about 35 per cent of that market, so that with McCorquodale we would control over 60 per cent of the market. A number of problems with plant in Singapore and at Fakenham have resulted in a poor profit record at Clay. It cost £400,000 pre-tax in 1984 but achieved a £1.3 million profit in 1984, up from £12 million the year before."

Clay is likely to emphasise its defence document that its bright young management team has eliminated loss-makers and that its core business is attractive. Clay has also spent nearly £4 million on new plant and technology in the last two years. Why should McCorquodale reap the benefits? it asks.

The success of the bid rests with the institutions. Over 70

Elswick losses up

The size of the problem facing the reconstructed board of Elswick Hopper is made clear by a jump in losses from £217,000 to nearly £1 million in 1984.

Mr Harold Cross, the new chairman, who put up £225,000 in October in return for a 25 per cent stake in the UK's No. 2 bicycle maker and agricultural machinery group, considers that break-even may be reached next year.

This pre-supposes that Elswick's markets hold up, that the economy stays firm and that the weather is kind to its grass-cutting business.

The new board's recovery programme has shown signs of paying off in the first few months of the year. The agricultural division has been consistently profitable, while the group's Falcon bicycles division is capable of becoming profitable within a "reasonable period."

Edited by
Tony May

Cheerless day closes an eventful account

THE MARKETS

From a very quiet opening half-hour, stock markets began to take a turn for the worse as an eventful account came to an end, although an expected base rate cut failed to materialise. Early gains in the electronics sector were soon reversed, and leaders ended the day in falls to double figures in places.

The results from British, issued along with the prospectus for the sale of the remaining 49 per cent stake held by the government, disappointed markets, which had been going for around £100 million at least in post-tax profits. The actual figure, showing £91.4 million, lifted the shares very briefly before sending them down as low as 205p, prior to a slight rally which saw them close a net 5p off at 211p.

This did not help an already demoralised market, beset by worries about inflation and still disturbed by the problems and shake-out in the electronics sector. Without a base rate cut to provide some cheer, the FTSE index showed a fall of 12.6 at the close of trading on the market floor, though this was off the bottom, and late interest in the new account helped this trend further.

Glit-edges securities were encouraged by the continuing strength of the pound and the prospect of cheaper money, gaining up to a half a point at best in the conventional, 100-linked stocks gave up a quarter, however, as the retail prices index for June revealed that inflation held steady at 7 per cent.

Among the big dollar earners to lose ground on that currency's weakness, ICI fell 18p to 604p. Elsewhere, better-than-expected profits from the recently beleaguered precious metals and chemicals concern, Builders were one of the only sectors to gain ground yesterday, still firm on hopes for the government's spending plans on the road and buildings infrastructure.

Taylor Woodrow, for instance, closed 10p firmer at 453p. Elsewhere results from TSL Thermal Syndicate saw the shares slashed by 33p to 235p after the chairman mentioned that recent reports of a downturn in world demand for semi-conductor products would affect the company.

Otherwise banks and insurance, though off the bottom in late trading, witnessed falls, and consumer sectors such as stores also suffered.

Main changes: British 211p, down 5p; Richard Clay 144p, up 40p; ICI 604p, down 18p; Taylor Woodrow 443p, up 10p; TSL Thermal 235p, down 33p; Johnson Matthey 55p, down 12p; Prudential 624p, down 15p.

Turnover for Thursday, July 11, was: number of bargains 18,617; value £400.371 million.

Frankfurt: Share prices closed sharply lower in active, nervous trading with car issues leading the way. The Commerzbank in-

dex shed 26.3 points to finish at 1397.7.

Paris: French shares rose in moderate trading as investors responded to interest rate news. The general market indicator finished with a 0.38 per cent gain. Advancing issues declined 108 to 68, with 19 French issues unchanged.

Tokyo: Shares declined for the fifth successive day as the unrelenting selling of Nikkei continued to weaken the market. The Nikkei index finished at 12,558.49 (12,558.10).

Hong Kong: Shares rose for the third day running as active, choppy trading. They hit their best levels in more than a month. Hang Seng index: 1615.78 (1597.51).

Money markets: The markets spent the day waiting for the cut in base rates from the clearers which in the event failed to materialise. Period rates pushed on further, looking for the next cut to beyond 12 per cent. There are signs the bank may wish to cut this excess enthusiasm.

FT Ordinary Share Index down 804 at 926.0. FT-SE 100 Index: £1,388.7; DM: 4.90; ¥: 121.7; Gold: \$162.25. Aeronautics: July 1 to 12 FT All Share Index: 12,558.49 (12,558.10). 376.4 (June) up 7 per cent.

COMMODITIES

Copper: Cash £1,047 per tonne; three months £1,055 per tonne; one month \$2,065 per tonne; three months \$2,050 per tonne.

Lead: Cash £208 per tonne; three months \$208 per tonne; one month \$208 per tonne.

Zinc: Cash £135 per tonne; three months \$135 per tonne; one month \$135 per tonne.

Steel: Cash \$350 per tonne; three months \$350 per tonne; one month \$350 per tonne.

Aluminium: Cash \$1,047 per tonne; three months \$1,055 per tonne; one month \$2,065 per tonne.

Gold: Cash \$376.4 per ounce; three months \$376.4 per ounce; one month \$376.4 per ounce.

Oil: Cash \$20.50 per barrel; three months \$20.50 per barrel; one month \$20.50 per barrel.

Grain: Cash \$1.00 per bushel; three months \$1.00 per bushel; one month \$1.00 per bushel.

Wool: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Rubber: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Sugar: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Coffee: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Tea: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Spices: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Textiles: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Metals: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Minerals: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Energy: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Environment: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Healthcare: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Technology: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Telecommunications: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Transportation: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Utilities: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Real Estate: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Art and Antiques: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Collectibles: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

Commodities: Cash \$1.00 per pound; three months \$1.00 per pound; one month \$1.00 per pound.

UNIT TRUSTS

Unit off	Unit off	Unit off	Unit off	Unit off	Unit off
Abbey Unit Trust American Growth 155.0 143.8 American Income 100.0 90.0 American Bond 100.0 90.0 American Div 100.0 90.0 American Div & Bond 100.0 90.0 American Div &					

Margaret Dibben explains how to get richer every month without thinking about it

A fiver today pays dividends tomorrow

IF YOU invest £5 a month, a sum you will hardly miss, after ten years you could have £1,000. That might not seem big business, so if you increase the monthly payment to £100, in ten years time this could grow to £20,000.

The point about regular savings is that you get into the habit of budgeting for a certain outflow each month and soon do not think about the money. Children can be encouraged into the savings habit by putting away as little as £1 a month. If you know you have a particular expense looming in the future — a car, a holiday, a wedding — you can save towards that date.

No one will tell you exactly how much your contributions will be worth at the end of ten years although anyone trying to sell you a regular savings scheme will make a good guess. The nearest you can get to knowing for certain what you will have in the future is with National Savings fixed interest certificates where the rates of interest are guaranteed for five years.

Higher risk investments will suggest even larger sums of money at the end of 10 years and this is where you take the risk you might get more or you might get less. Moreover, on these investments you will almost certainly be paying commission

charges which will eat away at your eventual payout.

Nearly every form of investment has an option for regular monthly savings, some taking as low as £1 a month but more likely £10 or £20 a month and possibly with a maximum of around £200 a month.

Before going ahead with a scheme, you should ask what sort of commitment you are letting yourself in for; if there are any penalties if you have a payment; how long you have to keep up the payments; if there are any costs to you; what sort of risk you are taking; if you can have access to any of your money while continuing the scheme (you may be allowed one withdrawal a year, for example).

A small change in interest rates can make a large difference to your savings over a number of years. If you saved £20 a month, Table 1 shows how much you would have at different rates of interest.

For varying monthly contributions, see the Nationwide Building Society produces a table which assumes an interest rate throughout the period of 9.25 per cent (see Table 2).

Many banks and building societies have special regular savings schemes, although there is no reason why you should not make monthly, or even bi-monthly, payments regularly into most accounts.

Rates of interest are not as good as those being paid on the top notch accounts, but should be about 1 per cent better than the basic bank account rate. This makes it around 9.25 per cent net of basic rate tax of 13.21 per cent grossed up.

Typically you will be allowed one withdrawal a year without any loss of interest and you can close them completely at any time you choose.

You can also invest regularly in other building society schemes, guaranteed mortgage schemes, which tend to pay a comparatively low rate of interest and have little point at present because mortgages are easily available. Some societies also have Save As You Earn schemes with fixed terms.

You save between £1 and £20 a month for five years after which you will receive a bonus worth 14 months' contributions. This makes the rate of interest over the period 8.3 per cent a year. If you leave the money for another 14 months without making any more contributions you get another 14 months' bonus which brings the interest equivalent to 8.8 per cent. This is all tax free

but does not compare well with other schemes.

Should you stop making payments in the first year, you will have your money returned but with no interest. If you fail to keep up the contributions after that, you will get interest on the amount you have paid in at six per cent.

National Savings' Yearly Plan was created a year ago as a way of making regular contributions towards a savings certificate. This week the maximum you can invest was raised to £200 a month but the minimum stays at £20. After 12 months' payments, you earn a certificate which you hold for a further four years and get 9.25 per cent tax free on average, over the full five years.

A number of unit trusts have a facility for making monthly payments into the fund. Even a few investments, made having started doing the same.

The minimum will probably be between £10 and £50 a month, with the option to increase this at any time, and no limit on how much you can put in. You can stop making payments whenever you wish but if you choose a time when the value of your units is low

you will not do as well as at other times and indeed might lose money.

Some will offer you a bonus of 1 or 2 per cent extra if you fulfil certain conditions: for example the TSB gives an extra 2 per cent for subscriptions over £50 a month; and Brown Shipley gives a 3 per cent bonus on all regular contributions.

With unit trust saving schemes, there will be annual charges to pay as well as the difference between the price at which you buy (the offer price) and the price at which you sell (the bid price, which is lower).

The terms of the different schemes vary depending on how much commission is paid to an intermediary, what charges are imposed and the bonuses given. This of course affects the amount of money you eventually get back.

Table 3 shows what might happen.

A phrase found bandied about with regular saving

schemes is "pound cost averaging", the suggestion being that you get more for your money. The argument is that, if you buy units at, say £10, and then the price halves you have no need to worry, because at the lower price you will be buying twice as many units for your money and the average price is thus three quarters, not half, the original. If the price goes up, then you get fewer units for the same amount but who cares, because your investment has risen in value.

Over a period of years, provided you sell when the value of units is above the average, you will have gained because the average price you will have paid is lower than the average value.

Pension funds are, in their way, a form of regular savings, particularly if you are entitled to make additional voluntary contributions. The same goes for life insurance policies if you choose one with a large investment element.

TABLE 3
£100 a month invested; assuming 1 per cent a month growth:

YEAR	5% commission	25% commission & no contribution	No commission & 2% bonus
1	1,288.25	936.85	1,306.30
2	2,591.55	2,353.91	2,778.27
3	3,894.85	4,336.92	4,336.92
4	5,198.15	6,305.93	6,305.93
5	6,501.45	8,274.94	8,274.94
6	7,804.75	10,243.95	10,243.95
7	9,108.05	12,212.96	12,212.96
8	10,411.35	14,181.97	14,181.97
9	11,714.65	16,150.98	16,150.98
10	13,017.95	18,119.99	18,119.99

Never trust an actor, a gambler or a journalist

David Worsfold on the risks insurance companies are reluctant to take

RECENT massive losses by British insurance companies have forced many firms to tighten up by increasing premiums, especially in inner city areas, and by trying to weed out what they think might be bad risks.

The trouble comes when the insurance experts start sorting out these bad risks. This process will inevitably mean that over the next couple of years more people are going to find that they are either quoted a much higher premium than the company advertises for their area or

they will be totally rejected when applying for a new house contents policy. Try to seek an explanation and you will probably encounter a stony silence. This is one of those sinister secrets that the insurance industry likes to keep to itself.

If you are turned down for a simple house contents policy, it is most likely because someone in that insurance company considers you to be a "moral hazard", a singularly unflattering term sometimes indiscriminately applied. Of course it is not something to take too personally, although if you are left with the expensive contents of your house unprotected it will certainly come as a blow.

You will have fallen foul of someone's prejudice against your occupation. You will stand a chance of finding someone to insure you pro-

vided you have no actual record of dishonesty or recklessness.

The most frequent entries on the lists of morally hazardous occupations that insurance companies draw up for their own internal consumption are: actors, musicians, antique dealers, club owners, market traders, professional gamblers, scrap merchants, used car salesmen, artrow, and young journalists.

Ask an insurance company to explain its prejudice and you will be treated to stories of actors and musicians who have had wild night parties that resulted in their houses being either ransacked or badly damaged. One company even said that they had a case of an actor's house burning to the ground, after a party, the implication being that all actors' parties are likely to end in bonfire.

Parties are just a part of the problem. All types of entertainers tend to be away for long periods or out for set times every evening, making their houses more obvious targets for thieves. In addition, they are supposed to lead more flamboyant lifestyles, accumulating and displaying their wealth frequently, often travelling abroad with a large quantity of valuables.

This, then, is the standard picture of an actor or musician in the mind of the average insurance underwriter. Fortunately, not all insurance experts share such a simple prejudice about some of these occupations and both Equity and the Musicians' Union have teamed up with specialist insurance brokers who have taken the time to find out which companies are pre-

pared to take a more sympathetic view and treat cases on an individual basis.

Some insurance companies take a very restricted view of what constitutes a moral hazard, limiting it to people who have an obvious and proven leaning towards dishonesty. Other cases — such as the occupations mentioned above — might have difficult aspects to them but can be taken on, possibly at a slightly increased price.

What an insurance company will be looking for is some evidence that their worst fears will not be realised. For instance, a spouse who has a more conventional occupation is a definite asset. If you can't manage that, the try stressing how responsible you are by getting someone to come in while you are away to check that the water pipes and so on haven't sprung a

leak, fit decent locks on doors and windows and submit detailed valuations.

If you have had a proposal for a house contents policy turned down on the grounds of your occupation, you will certainly have to enlist some specialist help — a good insurance broker.

You may be told that you should not look for high value cover on an "all risks" basis because this tends to ring alarm bells with insurance companies who fear that all manner of valuables will be taken abroad never to be seen again except as a hefty insurance claim. This is probably not very useful advice.

If you travel abroad and have to take valuable items with you, you should get them covered on an all risks basis so that they are properly insured for loss or damage outside the home.

"Right now, you should be investing in companies you may never have heard of."

"I know of no better investment today than relatively unknown companies. Which may sound surprising as, over the last two years, it is shares in blue chip companies which have performed spectacularly well."

But this was due to two factors, both of which have now run their course.

Firstly, big companies streamlined their operations during the recession and, as a result, became more profitable when business picked up. Secondly, the strong dollar increased the value of the earnings of British companies in the USA. However, now that this momentum has slowed, institutional investors are turning their attention to smaller companies with growth prospects. A philosophy I have already been following for some time.

My belief is that in the future we will see

investors who want real growth in their investments, this type of company provides first class prospects.

In fact, some of these second timers have already outstripped many in the first division by returning above average profits.

And we will continue to pinpoint these companies as effectively as possible.

Obviously, to reduce risk, a good deal of research and analysis is required to pave the way. After all, to buy shares when they are out of favour you have to be convinced that your view is correct.

Because of this, when considering investment opportunities for Target's Special Situations Fund, two well tried courses of action are taken.

ASSET VALUATION

Firstly, if we think that a share is radically undervalued compared to the net asset value of the company, let alone the growth potential, we would consider it to be a relatively low risk way of buying

what may well prove to be highly geared stock.

Only last year, for example, we bought Associated Newspapers because we discovered that its assets were probably worth more than four times its share price.

Since then, the share price has risen as other investors began to realise the extent of the group's property interests and its stake in a valuable oil company.

DIGGING DEEP

The second type of stock we look for is one where a company's business is diversifying, or even changing — factors which are probably unknown to the majority of private investors.

An example is Lamont Holdings. This company had previously been thought of as a Northern Irish producer of textiles labouring under a fairly dowdy image. But after visiting the company a year ago and digging fairly deeply, we discovered that Lamont was diversifying very profitably into the area of computer technology.

We knew that a re-rating of stock was inevitable, so we bought soon after our visit. In fact, since our investment, the share price has risen substantially and is now tipped by leading market analysts — a year behind us!

BROADER HORIZONS

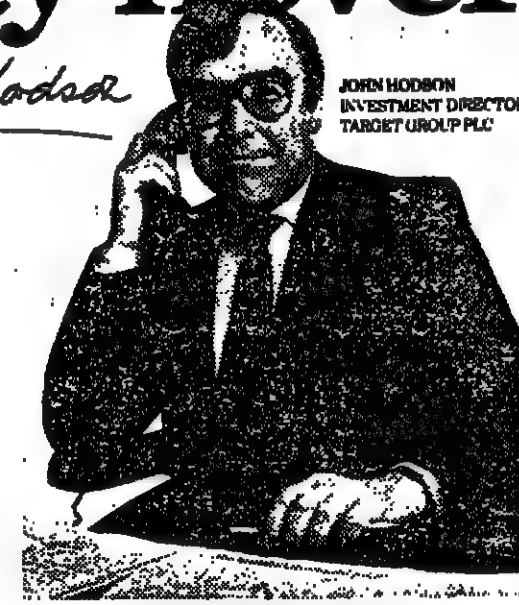
Recently, we have decided to broaden our horizons slightly by looking for opportunities outside the UK. At certain times over the last six months up to 10% of the fund value has been invested in the Far East. And we now have an interest in the USA. However, our Special Situations Fund is always likely to have the majority of its assets in the UK.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Applications and cheques will be acknowledged. Certificates will be sent within 42 days of receipt. You may sell your units at any time at a price which will not be less than that calculated by Department of Trade and Industry regulations. Payment will be made within 10 days of receipt by the Managers of the renounced certificate. Prices of units and yields are quoted daily in the Financial Times.

An initial charge of 6% is included in the offer price of units, out of which remuneration is paid to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request. An annual charge of 1% plus VAT is deducted from gross income. Income is distributed net of basic rate tax on 21st March and 30th September. On 3rd June 1985, Target Special Situations Fund units were available at an offer price of 94.3p and the current estimated gross annual yield was 1.85%.

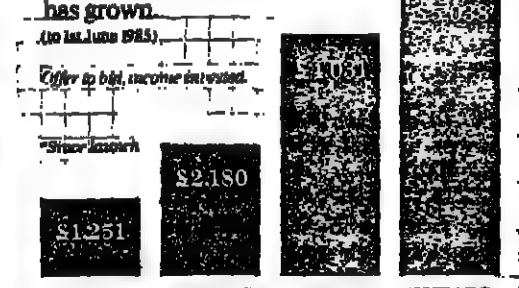
The Trustee of Target Special Situations Fund is Midland PLC. Managers: Target Trust Managers Limited (a member of the Unit Trust Association) 7-9 Breams Buildings, London EC4A 3EL. Registered in England, No: 847546 at Target House, Gresham Road, Aylesbury, Bucks.



JOHN HOBSON
INVESTMENT DIRECTOR
TARGET GROUP PLC

Remember, the price of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up.

How £1,000 invested in Target Special Situations Fund has grown.



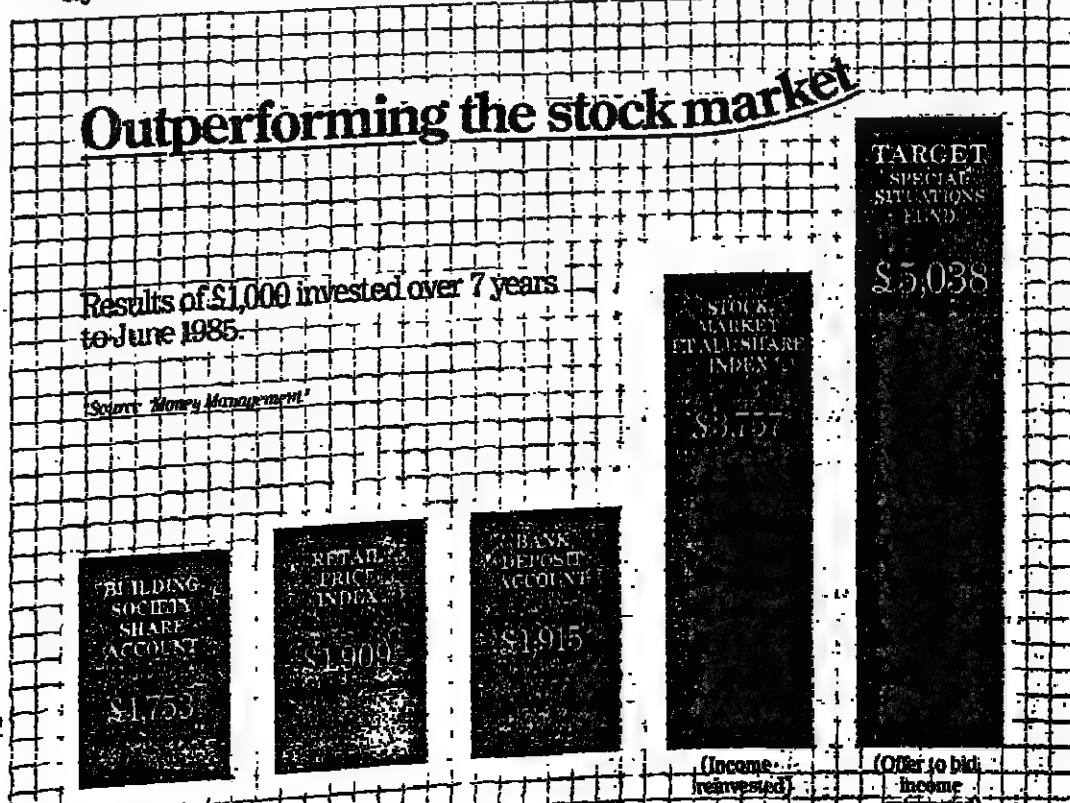
OUTPERFORMING THE STOCK MARKET

Investors in the Target Special Situations Fund will have a portfolio of shares that are ideally placed to take advantage of current stock market conditions.

And, I am now not alone in my opinion. Just recently, the Financial Times argued the case for investing in "small, growing and entrepreneurial companies" in an article entitled "Thinking small can bring big benefits".

Out of the 20 funds we manage, my recommendation today is to invest in Target Special Situations Fund.

If you normally consult a professional adviser, I suggest you contact him without delay. Alternatively, complete the coupon below."



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Target Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4EH. Tel: 01-631 8244.

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in Target Special Situations Fund (minimum \$500)
at the price ruling on receipt of this application.

Please make your cheque payable to Target Trust Managers Limited.

Full Name(s)
Address
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My professional adviser is:
I/We wish to receive details of how to exchange shares for unit trusts.

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If you want to retire on a reasonable income, don't change jobs. Richard Wright outlines the perils of the frozen pension and finds some confusion in new legislation.

The pensioners left out in the cold

AN icy farewell, otherwise known as a frozen pension, is the unattractive leaving present many people get when they change their job. "Unattractive" because frozen pension means exactly what it says: fixed in advance, unchanging and immutable however long the period between the date you leave and the date when you actually retire and draw the pension. It starts off small and gets smaller as time goes on because inflation steadily eats away at its real value.

And concealed behind the lack of inflation according to another disadvantage: the benefit is calculated according to your salary at the date you leave and the number of years of employment you have then completed.

For example, if your final salary pension scheme gives you a pension of one-sixtieth of salary for each year of employment and you leave after 10 years on a salary of £3,000, your frozen pension will be:

1/60 of £3,000 OR £15.00.

However, when you come to retire, your salary may well have risen to £15,000. Naturally, you would like to feel that your whole pension is related to your higher salary. This would mean that for the first 10 years you worked, your pension would, then become:

1/60 of £15,000 OR £25.00.

But your frozen pension is £15.00 short of this figure.

Unfortunately, nobody wants to know about this shortfall nor about giving you the extra £1,000 pension. Certainly not your first employer, who would argue that you left him years ago, and it's no part of his responsibility to pay you more money 30 years later. Equally, your last employer feels his responsibility stops with the years you worked for him.

Multiply this typical situation by a number of job changes and you can see how the pension of the job changer must suffer by comparison with a person who works for the same employer throughout his career. Of course, there can be compensating factors. You may earn a higher salary as a result of changing your job. Or you may move from an employer with no pension provision to one with a generous retirement scheme. Nevertheless, the fundamental drawbacks of the frozen pension remain.

Now, however, the ice is melting. First, the good news. From January 1, 1986, legislation requires that the frozen



"If stored in the shaded south-east corner of your cellar for ten or twenty years, it will mature into a robust, full-bodied investment."

pension you get when you leave must have its value increased by 5 per cent a year - or by the rate of inflation, if it is lower.

Thus, £100 of frozen pension today would be worth £200 in 14 years' time, and £400 in 28 years' time at a 5 per cent yearly rate of increase. Certainly, a big improvement on a static frozen pension. But you have to remember that the value can't go up more than inflation. And if inflation has averaged, say, 5 per cent a year over the period, because of the 5 per cent ceiling on the rate of interest, the real value of your pension will still have halved. Your best situation is inflation at or below 5 per cent a year, in which case the pension value will have kept pace exactly with the fall in the value of money.

Now for the bad news. The 5 per cent revaluation rate only applied to the pension built up for you since January 1, 1985. Suppose you change your job in January 1987 having been 10 years with your current employer. At a leaving salary of £3,000, your total accrued pension would still be the £1500 calculated earlier. But the bit accruing from January 1, 1985 to January 1, 1987 will have to be revalued by your first employer at the rate of 5 per cent or inflation if lower. The pension for this period, then, for 2 years would be:

1/60 of £3,000 OR £300.

Therefore, £300 of your accrued pension will be revalued, but the major part, £1,200 (£1,500 less £300) will not be, since it dates back to the years before January 1, 1985.

A revalued frozen pension is not the only option which will be available. Also from January 1, 1986, if you change your job you will have the right to choose between three main options:

1. The revalued frozen pension just described.

2. A transfer value paid into your new employer's scheme from the trustees of the scheme you are leaving.

Although your employer will be compelled to provide the transfer, the trustees of the pension scheme of your new employer are not compelled to accept it. It is anticipated, however, that most schemes will have or will introduce the facility to accept transfer values in due course.

3. The same amount of transfer value to be paid instead to any insurance company you choose in order to buy you a pension. In the jargon, this is known as a "section 32 contract" or more grandly as a "buy out bond".

When you change your job, therefore, your first step must be to get the figures for the frozen pension to which you are entitled and the amount of the transfer value.

You then need to check whether your new employer's scheme will accept that transfer value and if so, how much pension you would be credited. A point to watch carefully here is that your employers may give you an added advantage over and above the strict mathematical value of what pension the transfer payment can buy. They may give you a "buy out bond" which gives you a pension for a number of years, say 10, and then they credit you with extra years can result in a big extra boost to your pension. You will get pension-related to your much higher earning salary, and not just in the salary at the date of transfer.

Finally, you can ask one or more insurance companies to give you a quotation to see how much they would give for your transfer value; will buy you.

Having got all these figures you are then faced with the most difficult job of all: comparing them and deciding which option to choose. In my next article, I will set out the way in which you can reach a decision and apply it to some actual figures.

Gartmore Gartmore Gartmore

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"10 years with Save & Prosper - our income has more than doubled and our capital has risen 221%."

£10,000 invested in High Return Unit Trust ten years ago would have given you a rising income - £1,315 in just the twelve months to 1st June 1985 - a net return of over 13% on the original investment. Meanwhile the return on a building society ordinary share account during the same twelve months would have produced no more than £773.

Over those ten years your initial investment of £10,000 would have grown to £32,133 (bid price value) with Save & Prosper - a capital gain of 221% - while your capital in a building society would have remained unchanged.

See how your income and capital would have grown with High Return over the last ten years:

IMPRESSIVE TEN YEAR RECORD		
	INCOME paid year to 1st June	CAPITAL as at 1st June
1975	Initial Investment	£10,000
1976	£ 488	£11,019
1977	£ 642	£12,701
1978	£ 784	£15,545
1979	£ 936	£17,488
1980	£1,087	£19,578
1981	£1,192	£21,066
1982	£1,078	£21,517
1983	£1,126	£24,403
1984	£1,171	£24,431
1985	£1,315	£32,133

About the fund

High Return Unit Trust invests in a selection of companies whose shares offer the prospect of a high and growing income, as well as scope for capital growth.

Excellent prospects

Continuing economic recovery should lead to steady growth in company profit levels. This should be reflected in higher dividends, enabling higher distributions to be made from the fund next year.

Invest today

Simply complete and return the coupon, together with your cheque, either through your professional adviser or direct to us. On 9th July 1985 the offer price of units was 142.5p and the estimated gross starting yield was 5.67% p.a.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

HIGH RETURN UNIT TRUST



GENERAL INFORMATION

OBJECTIVE To provide a portfolio designed to achieve a high income (from stocks and shares). DEALING IN UNITS Units may normally be bought or sold on any working day. Certificates will normally be forwarded within 14 days. When units are sold back to the Managers, payment is normally made within 7 days of our receiving your request. Prices and the yield are quoted daily in the *Financial Times*. The *Times* and on *Practical Money*. RISKY INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION 2nd Feb every year and 2nd Aug each year. CHARGES Initial charge: 5% plus a loading adjustment not exceeding the lower of 1% or 1.25p per unit, which is included in the offer price of units. Redemption (at rates available on request) will be paid to authorised professional advisers. Annual charge: 1% of the value of the Fund plus VAT (permitted maximum 1% plus VAT - subject to three months' notice). This is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Managers' expenses, including Trustees' fees. INVESTMENT POWERS The Managers have executed a supplemental trust deed enabling them to purchase and sell traded options subject to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry. SAFEGUARDS The Fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and is a "wide-range" investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Trustee: Bank of Scotland. MANAGERS Save & Prosper Securities Limited, 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2JY. Telephone: 0708-66966. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To: Save & Prosper Securities Ltd. FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR.

Tel: 0708-66966 (24 hours). Prestel: *48128 *

I wish to invest £ (minimum £250 initially, £100 subsequently) in Save & Prosper High Return Unit Trust. I enclose a cheque payable to Save & Prosper Securities Limited. I am over 18. I understand that units will be allocated at the offer price ruling on receipt of an application. I would like distributions of income to be paid direct to my bank. ☐ OR paid by cheque to myself ☐ OR reinvested in further units ☐ (Please tick one box)

CAPITALS PLEASE First Name(s) _____

Surname (Mr./Mrs./Miss) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Existing Account number (if any) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

AGENCY'S STAMP _____ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

This offer is available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Reg. in Scotland No. 2643. Reg. office: 60/62 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 4QE.

52/71/GU

SAVE & PROSPER

How to build up LOTS OF MONEY month by month

For as little as £15 a month, the new TSB Unitbuilder regular saving scheme can really get your money growing.

Because, with TSB Unitbuilder, your monthly savings are invested by professional experts in the shares of a wide variety of selected companies. Then, as those companies prosper, so do your savings!

What's more, TSB Unitbuilder's adaptability can be used to suit your changing circumstances.

You can increase your monthly savings, or add lump sums of £25 or more whenever you have some spare cash. Or you can suspend your monthly payments if you have to.

Or cash in your savings at any time.

How Unitbuilder works...

Apply for a Unitbuilder today and your monthly payments will buy you units in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust.

Launched in April 1982, this Trust is currently valued at some £24 million, invested for around 14,000 people.

Its aim is to achieve the very maximum capital growth from the ordinary shares of progressive companies, from new share issues (such as British Telecom) and from situations such as takeovers and mergers.

Its investment policy is one which has more than paid off.

...and how it could work for you

If you had saved just £30 a month in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust over the 3 years to June 12th, 1985 (a total outlay of just £1,080) it would have grown to £1,488.31!

In an average building society ordinary share account the same saving over the same period would be worth just £1,204.00.

Of course, as with any unit trust, the price of units in your Unitbuilder and the income from them can go down as well as up. So this is a scheme for your medium to long-term savings. However, we confidently expect TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust to continue to reward its investors.

And, to help your money grow even faster, the income the Trust receives from its investments will be used to buy you more units. So you get a growing share of a growing trust, and a growing investment.

Start your Unitbuilder now

This couldn't be easier.

Simply complete and return the Application Form and Bankers Order below. Send no money now! Then, on the 5th of each month, your savings will be transferred to TSB Unit Trusts and, on the 12th, your units will be bought.

As soon as you start a Unitbuilder scheme you will be sent a Record Book, then each May and November you will receive a statement of your account together with a Manager's Report.

Bonuses for bigger savings

You can start a TSB Unitbuilder with as little as £15 a month, or as much as you like. What's more, if you save £86 a month or more, we'll give you a 2% discount on the price of the units you buy. Which means the more you save, the more you get.

So start your Unitbuilder now. And really get your money growing.

TSB UNIT BUILDER

To: Fred Shaftoe, TSB Unit Trusts Limited, Keens House, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1PG. Telephone: (0264) 63432/34.

I/We wish to save £ a month in TSB Selected Opportunities Unit Trust (Minimum £15 a month) through a TSB Unitbuilder scheme and enclose my/our completed Bankers Order Form.

SEND NO MONEY NOW. (CHECK CAPITALS PLEASE) Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms (For women)

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

TSB Unitbuilder scheme is only open to investors who are 18 years of age or over. It is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland. G13/7

To: The Manager

Sorting Code _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Please pay Central Trustee Savings Bank Limited (TSB) for the credit of TSB Unit Trusts Limited Account No 10480028 an initial sum of _____

£ of every month commencing on _____ 1985 and on _____

Name(s) of Account to be debited _____

Account No. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For Bank Branch use _____

Please quote Reference No. _____

First

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)

Revenue

Operating profit

Net interest (payable), net

Profit on ordinary activities

Taxation

Profit

Reserve Revenue

- excluding sale

- staggered

Corporation Tax

Profit for the financial year

Dividends

Amount set aside to reserve

Reserves per share

Dividend per share

Profit generated from operations

Less tax paid

Additions to fixed assets

DIVIDENDS

The Directors have

40p per share. Excess is

the subject of HM Customs

will be made on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

on 1st Oct

at the close of business

Your money questions answered

I AM nearly 81 and my wife is nearly 78. Our only child is our daughter who lives in the USA with her family and we are very anxious that she should benefit from our life savings when we are gone. We own a house valued at roughly £45,000 and some £10,000 in investments. If I die before my wife she would receive approximately £75 per week, plus the house and savings which are all in our joint names.

In the event of my wife being placed in a home would the local authority have the right to sell the house and take all our savings to meet the expenses or is there some means of making the house over to our daughter. — J.D., London, NW9.

THE local authority have no power to compel a resident in a home to sell his property so as to pay the accommodation charges. However, they can place a charge on the property that would enable them to recover the accrued balance of charges when the property is finally sold (probably after death). Since you have between £2,000-£10,000 invested you could at this stage transfer your house to your daughter, while retaining a life tenancy in it.

Section 21 of the Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications Act 1981 states that an authority, in certain circumstances, will be able to recover accommodation charges from recipients of the transferred assets. (This section is not yet in force). It would have to be shown that the assets had been transferred knowingly and with intent to avoid charges. However, in your case, your investments could be used, if necessary to pay for your accommodation charges and therefore there should be no objection to transferring the property.

Good cause

I REACH my 60th birthday this year. My wife, 14 years older than me, was in full time employment until we married in 1955. Until we read an article in the Guardian we did not think she would be entitled to any State pension until I became 65. We have had a disappointing answer from our local social security office. — J.M.

JUDGING by the number of letters about State pensions, the situation of numerous

people, women in particular, do not fit into the general rules. The result is utter confusion.

The most common complaints are women who reach retirement age of 60 and discover, sometimes years later, that they do not have to wait until their husbands reach retirement age of 65 before they can collect any pension due to them in their own right.

What annoys them even more is when they are refused, as in your case, all the back money they are entitled to. This is because you should claim three months before you are due to the pension. Only three months' arrears is normally paid, unless you show a "good cause" for claiming late. If you can do this, it's worth a

try, but even then you are unlikely to get more than a year's back money.

But saying that you didn't know you were entitled to your pension is unlikely to be accepted as a "good cause" for not claiming.

Wrong or inadequate advice by an official at your local DHSS office qualifies as a "good cause" for a late claim.

My advice to you and others in a similar situation is to plug away at your local DHSS office until you get some satisfaction. There have been cases of the department stretching the rules.

Share deals

I AM shortly to be invited to participate in a five-year savings related share option

scheme run by my company. This means a minimum saving of £10 a month over five years, with an option at the end of the period either to buy shares in the company at 80 per cent of today's value or take the proceeds of my monthly savings with a guaranteed bonus of 3.3 per cent compounded. Your views on this form of investment would be greatly appreciated. — P.G., Warrington.

COMPANY share option schemes can be a very attractive form of saving, but their full value will depend on the prospects for your company's share price in the future, and on your continuing to save for five years. If the company's share price has fallen when you come to exercise your option you still have your own building society share account at the end of the five-year term, though you could certainly earn more over the period in some other form of savings. If the price has risen, an option to buy at 80 per cent of today's price will be very worthwhile indeed. A disadvantage is that if you change your job before your plan matures, the option to buy shares lapses. Take a long-term view at your company's prospects before you decide.

Future plans

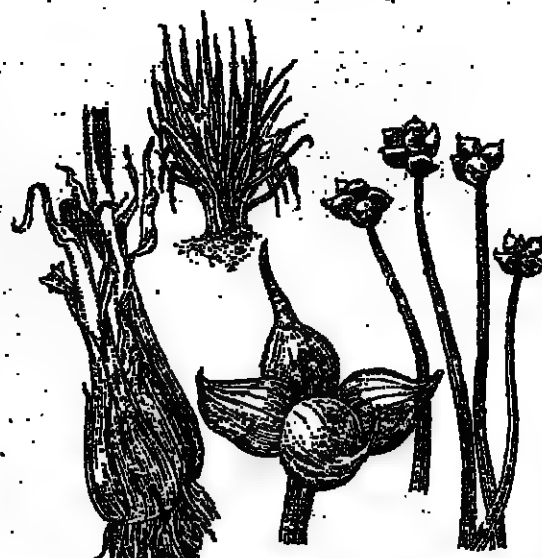
I AM due to retire in about five years' time. Where can I get some information on financial planning? — D.S.M., Canterbury.

MANY employers invite retirement counsellors to talk to employees due to retire. If your employer does not already do so, it may be worth suggesting it to him. I would also refer you to Age Concern. This is a registered charity which promotes the welfare of elderly people.

The organisation publishes a wide range of booklets aimed at people like yourself and those already in retirement. One you may be particularly interested in is Your Taxes and Savings in Retirement. It costs only £1.50 from Bernard Shulley House, 80 Pittam Road, Mitcham, Surrey. Age Concern will gladly send you a full list of its publications.

What started the rot in last year's crop on Michael Hyde's allotment? And how can he avoid it this year?

Onions without tears



Welsh and tree onions: drawing by Sharon Finnmark.

BULB ONIONS are grown successfully on most allotments. They are a suitable crop if you can escape the allium ailments of white rot, neck rot, thick neck, downy mildew, smut, rust, etc. Some people abhor their smell, but in the kitchen they are gastronomic gold.

Onions have adapted to and grow in all parts of the world except the tropics. They can be white, yellow, or red, of varying shape and flavour, with differing harvesting times and storing capability. Science and research have improved varieties and work towards disease resistance.

On our allotment enclave, onions have been much in evidence for the past week or so, sown in smart rows and squares uniformly green, upright, and proud. They have been growing apace. Some of our plot holders, younger enthusiasts like Eric, experiment with the less common alliums such as the Egyptian tree onion which, I understand, is not to be found growing in Egypt, and Japanese onions which originated in China. I myself have a few Welsh (Japanese) bunching onions from the Northern Horticultural Society's last seed distribution. Few grow garlic. Leeks are a most popular crop and can be harvested from November until April, though they tend to become a bit tough by then. Most grow the old and trusted favourites like Musselburgh. There are, of course, new varieties like Early Market and Winter Crop (late maturing).

Nelson, my plot associate, and myself are particularly pleased this year with our early maturing Japanese onions. It is the first time we have harvested mature onions in July. They are Shanshi Semi-Globe Yellow from Suttons. This variety is in the classified list of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, following 1974-81 trials; pronounced good for both resistance to bolting and winter hardiness.

Our seed was sown on two separate dates last August. The seedlings, having

spurned and survived the hard winter, were transplanted, yes, transplanted, by Nelson early this year. He followed his own instincts rather than the advice on sets seed packet to thin but not transplant. Perhaps, therefore, we are undeservedly lucky, because we have had no ailing transplants, nor have we been beset by bolting. We are now using these bulb onions happily while waiting for our main crops to mature, cure, and store. This August, for the sake of comparison, we shall plant Shanshi onion sets — that is, if we are quick enough off the mark to get some before our village garden shop sells out.

In the belief that the more you know about a vegetable, the more interesting it becomes to grow it, I have been dipping into the authoritative work Onions and Their Allies. By Jones and Mann, published in New York and London in the World's Crops Series. Plot holders in Poland and elsewhere, I learn, grow their own onion sets thickly and crowded to stunt growth, and store them from November to February either on reed mats in the rafters, or in the living room in baskets beside the kitchen stove. The largest sets are placed nearest the stove and the smaller ones farther away and for a shorter time, because storage temperatures affect bolting. In fact, some trials have shown that most bolting is found in sets kept at 40-50 degrees F, and least with those at 60-70°F.

Last year our bulb onions didn't keep and consequently I am wondering with some apprehension what fate awaits us this year. The

Odd jobbing

by Hilary Applegate

I HAVE just started to foster the surroundings of a new house; a fairly small, enclosed angular back garden and an open plan front. The buildings are modern, with walls and fences with a range of shrubs, plus four 3 metre high trees. The thin soil has baked hard as iron.

First priority is to reduce the flourishing weed population to give the garden plants a chance of settling in. Next I shall look for a convenient supply of well rotted or inert organic material for use as a mulch. This will retain moisture, restrain weeds, and improve the soil structure. The important thing about applying a mulch at this time of year is to ensure that the soil is thoroughly wetted beforehand, either by act of God or, by less gracious means. Otherwise the organic overlay will absorb subsequent rainfall and actually exacerbate the dryness underneath.

Then I shall erect a system of supporting wires around most of the walls, so that new shoots of pyreanthra, cotoneaster horizontalis, Forsythia, etc., can be trained whilst young and relatively supple.

People within easy reach of the capital may like to visit the North London Community Gardens opening to the public this weekend. Forgotten urban land has been reclaimed by local residents as their contribution to greening the City. The theme of the gardens ranges from ecology to recreation, from food production to woodland. For information of where to go and when, phone the Calthorpe Project, 01-837 8019 today or tomorrow.

First half results from Britoil

Consolidated Profit and Loss Account (Unaudited)	Six Months ended 30.6.85 \$ million	Six months ended 30.6.84 \$ million
Turnover	968.1	645.9
Operating profit	364.1	282.1
Net interest (payable)/receivable	0.6	(2.1)
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	364.7	280.0
Taxation		
Petroleum Revenue Tax		
— excluding safeguard	(206.6)	(165.8)
— safeguard	8.9	15.6
Corporation Tax	(75.6)	(66.4)
Profit for the financial period	91.4	63.4
Dividends	(20.1)	(16.5)
Amount set aside to reserves	71.3	46.9
Earnings per share	18.19p	12.66p
Dividend per share	4.00p	3.30p
Funds generated from operations less tax paid	257.8	290.5
Additions to fixed assets	330.9	269.9

DIVIDENDS

The Directors have decided to pay an interim dividend of 4.00p per share. Except in the case of the shares which are to be the subject of B.M. Government's proposed Offer for Sale, payment will be made on 1st October 1985 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 2nd September 1985.

THE SIX MONTHS' HIGHLIGHTS

- * Turnover increases to \$968.1 million. Revenue from equity production at \$775.6 million is up \$145.7 million (23%) on the 1984 first half year. The remainder of the increase is due to sales of purchased petroleum at \$192.5 million (£14.0 million in 1984).
- * Pre-tax profit increases to \$364.7 million, up \$84.7 million (30%) on the 1984 half year, and after-tax profit to \$91.4 million, up \$28.0 million (44%).
- * Oil production (including LPG and condensate) averages 178,300 barrels per day (157,800 barrels per day in the 1984 half year) and gas production 256 million cubic feet per day (226 million cubic feet per day in the 1984 half year).
- * Is acquiring interests in 23 UK landward licences, including the Humby Grove oil field and the Hornsea and Herriard oil discoveries, and 3 UK offshore licences, including the Glen field, from Haddock Petroleum International plc.
- * Fanned in with an initial 16.5% interest to Texaco operated Block 3/4a and the option of a further 33.5% interest in a development. Interests in other blocks also acquired by firm-in.
- * As operator, commenced the assembly of the Clyde pocket and completed water injection drilling at the Beatrice 'C' site. First production achieved from the partner-operated Statford 'C' platform.
- * Maintained position as one of the most active UKCS explorers, involved in a total of 19 wells spudded. Awarded, with partners, 19 blocks in the Ninth Round.
- * Further expansion in the US giving Britoil close involvement with two more companies making four in total; an agreement signed with Freeport-McMoRan Inc. to acquire a 25% interest in assets recently acquired by them from Midlands Energy Company; an agreement for a joint three year exploration programme signed with the Williams Exploration Company.
- * Other overseas activities continue to expand — licences awarded in Thailand (onshore near Bangkok), the Netherlands (offshore blocks F/15a, K/4b, K/5a and K/16) and Norway (offshore block 25/7). The Thai licence is Britoil's first Far Eastern partnership.
- * Gas discovery made on Kangean block in Indonesia.

For a copy of the Interim Report please complete and return the coupon to the Company Secretary Britoil plc, 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JL. Existing shareholders will receive the Report shortly.

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Britoil

Energy at work for Britain

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Make sure you get the best quality compost bins. Full details of prices and conditions of sale are available on request. Please call or write for a free brochure. Write to: AGROMAX LTD Dept. GUCM, 1, Rosemary Ave, Milton, Monmouth, Gwent, NP23 5LJ.

GUARDIAN OFFER

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TOTAL WEEDKILLER is cleared under U.K. Safety Precautions when used as directed on the pack. It does not contain Dioxin, Sodium Chlorate, 2,4-D or Paraquat.

Prices: Packs of five 50gm sachets (250 sq. ft.) £3.50. Packs of ten 50gm sachets (500 sq. ft.) £6.50. Packs of twenty 50gm sachets (1,000 sq. ft.) £11.50. (Please add 75p postage handling and carriage costs.)

Please allow up to 1421 days for delivery. The price includes VAT. Money is refundable on demand without question. Orders and enquiries should be sent to: Guardian Total Weedkiller Offer, Bourne Road, Bexley, Kent DA5 1BL. Tel. (0223) 53216 for enquiries only.

Please send me the Pack(s) of TOTAL WEEDKILLER I have indicated below:

☐ 2 sachet pack (500 sq. ft.) at £3.50

☐ 4 sachet pack (1,000 sq. ft.) at £5.95

☐ 6 sachet pack (2,000 sq. ft.) at £11.50

I enclose cheque/postal order for £_____ made payable to GUARDIAN TOTAL WEEDKILLER OFFER. (Please add 75p postage handling and carriage costs.)

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Signature _____

MR/MRS/MISS _____

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Postcode _____

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MARLEY

Madeleine Dyer suggests that quality control in building is largely in the hands of the industry itself

Can the customer trust the housebuilders?

IF press and television advertising is to be believed, house buyers trust builders with the design and construction of their new home, preferring to concentrate more on the colour of the bathroom suite and amenities in the kitchen. This public disinterest in the methods of constructing a new house, which is at least five times more expensive than a new car, has spawned criticism about the lack of quality assurance in the housebuilding industry. Some of these criticisms came to light in the World in Action programme in 1983 which featured lax site standards and poor management of materials on some of Britain's timber frame sites. Further, a recent interim report on timber frame housing compiled by the Building Research Establishment revealed "potentially disastrous" faults on ten timber frame sites in the South of England and the West Midlands. But this report was not intended for public viewing.

Recognising that such secrecy could only alarm owners and potential buyers of timber frame houses, the

BRE said later that the interim report's research was incomplete and that "evidence indicates that the performance in service of timber frame housing is no less satisfactory than that of traditional construction". But what guidelines are there for the public to base their decisions on the trustworthiness of builders and their products? Information on timber frame and masonry construction is available from the National House Building Council, the industry's trade association, and the House Builders' Federation, home of the New Homes Marketing Board. Yet professionals on the fringes of the industry suspect some housebuilders and the bodies that serve them of being too heavy on bureaucracy and light on management talent, and of not adequately protecting the public against failures in new housing and the products that go into them.

Ted Cantle, director of housing at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, describes as "abysmal" the

£15 million currently available for publicly funded research carried out by bodies like the Building Research Establishment when the construction industry's total output a year is £25 billion. "Research into products like new materials is vital. Yet existing quality assurance and product evaluation schemes are very limited. They tell us nothing about the future performance and are in my view inadequate."

Mr Cantle also thinks the NEHC could do more to help the consumer. "The role of the NEHC is absolutely critical, but it is seen as being run more in the interests of builders themselves rather than the consumer."

Andrew Tait, secretary general of the NEHC, which has six builders on its 18 member executive committee and 24,000 builders on its register, naturally disagrees. He thinks the NEHC has ensured that houses of both forms of construction are better built now than ever before. He says a £400,000 pilot study conducted on ten buildings by an independent

quality assurance consultant to test their products, site management, administrative systems, and profitability. All the builders taking part said they had learnt to improve their service to house buyers as a result.

NHBC members like Wimpey Homes have their own laboratories funded at their own expense which test and monitor the effects of fire or continual exposure to water on well constructed and purposefully defective housing. Wimpey also checks the quality of materials of the materials it uses.

But less scrupulous builders, it would appear from available figures, are responsible for 10,000 claims against the NEHC 10-year warranty, since the scheme's introduction in 1987. And the public is often the target of trade wars between vested interests in the masonry lobbies within the housebuilding industry. Although only 24 claims of the 20,000 were recorded for specific timber-frame defects in England, the market share of this method of construction has fallen from a peak of 21 per cent in April, 1982, to 9

per cent this April, and it is still falling.

Yet Scotland appears to buck this trend, and it is in Scottish public confidence in the reason. Walker Homes of Livingston, part of the first housebuilders to introduce timber frame to the Scottish private market. It has built over 2,000 such houses since 1969, and the group has just opened a £12 million factory costing £1.2 million for the manufacture of timber frame house kits. "That is how confident we are in timber frame," says group managing director Mike Walker.

He thinks lax site standards for timber frame were nipped in the bud by the Scottish National House Building Council as early as 1971.

Mr Walker has trained his staff in the use of timber frame erection. "Timber frame is a better system as long as it is manufactured to high standards and erected to the requirements of the NEHC. I would be the first to say this is where the system

breaks down. It is up to each builder to ensure site supervision is correct. There are reputable timber frame manufacturers in England, too. Llewellyn Homes have just been awarded a £41 million contract to build 153 homes at Crownhill, the bulk of which are timber frame. They have won a further £11 million contract to build 33 timber frame houses for rent at Thamesmead for the Greater London Council.

Chief project manager, David Lawrence, says no matter what kind of building it is, a presence on site is essential. "We have always used to a high level of site supervision on all the timber framing we have done and we have never had any trouble with it."

Until the public starts to ask questions on site supervision and training of staff on the sites where they buy their houses of either form of construction, quality assurance will continue to be determined by the builder rather than the consumer.

picture by Denis Thorpe

GENERAL

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ITALY, UMBRIA. Beautifully situated terraced house, 1500 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

THE REAL SPAIN. South of France. 1500 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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THE OLD VICARAGE

SHEPHERD GREEN
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An impressive stone residence built in 1743 and converted from a typical Victorian vicarage. Located in a quiet residential area with access to the railway and bus routes.

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Modern detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms.

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WALES

NORTH WALES COAST

Overlooking the Conwy Estuary, a choice detached residence in a superb location. Very spacious, modern, and comfortable. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms.

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POWYS. Freehold Semi-detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 2 sitting rooms.

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CUMBRIA/LAKES

Journal of Management Education

8 0 News: Today's Papers.
8 15 Sport on 4.
8 45 Yesterday in Parliament.
9 0 News: After Henry. Comedy series.
9 35 Great Liners: End of an era.
9 50 News Stand. Weeklies reviewed.
10 5 The Week in Westminster.
10 30 Pick of the Week. Chosen by Glyn Worsnip.
11 30 From our own Correspondent.

12 0 News: A Small Country Living
Magazine for the rural-minded
12 27 Quote... Unquote: Panel game
1 0 News: Any Questions? David
Steel, John Smith, Gerald
Malone, Peter Maxwell Davis
2 0 News: Afternoon Play: Post
Mortem by Noel Coward
3 0 News: Radio Active
3 29 Explorers Extraordinary:
Isabelle Eberhardt in the Sahara
4 15 Words by Hart. Songs by Rodden

4 45 Work and L. Talk by Harry Swan,
5 Wildlife. Nature queries.
6 Week Ending Satirical review.

6 25 With Great Pleasure: P. D. James, crime novelist, chooses poetry and prose.

7 45 Baker's Dozen. Musical lollipops.
8 30 Saturday-Night Theatre: Virginia
Territory by Edwin Pearce. Wil-
liam Stead's fight 100 years ago
against child prostitution.

10 0 News; Evening Service.
10 30 Animal Language: How bats see
with sound.
11 0 Science Now: Improving crops.
11 30 Cliffhanger. Comedy of the occult.
12 0 News; Weather; interval.
12 33 Shipping forecast.

VHF: 3 6-5 6 pm Options.
Wales (340m): 4 0-am As Radio 2. 6.38 U
You Don't Get Up You'll Miss It. 8.5 Get
Gardening. 8.51 Playday. 9.30 House
3 Live Aid from Llanollen. 1.15
The Gwevers Selection. 1.40 Roy Noble.
2.30 Summer Spin. 6 0-4 0 am As Radio 2.

Cymru (VHF): 5 55 am Weather; Gweler Radio 4, 7 45 Syd Amath, 8 0 Newyddion, Dros 10 Spectol, 8 15 Rithidiro, 9 0 Newyddion; Gweler Radio 4, 9 30 Cadw Relat, 11 0 Newyddion; Brywes a Siryann, 12 0 am Dd, 12 30 Sef. 12 30 Maen Rhy Hwyr Lloer, 1 30 Nol, 12 55 Newyddion; Gweler Radio 4, 5 58 Newyddion; Chwaraeon 6 0 Close Gweler Radio 4.

Scotland (370m): 6 00 am As Radio 4, 6 30 am Farming News, 6 50 As Radio 4, 7 15 News, Travel Time, 7 35 Weekly Roundup, 8 00 News, Leisure, Traffic, 9 30 As Radio 4, Cameron's Saturday Club, 11 30 Call David Scott, 12 15 pm Jimmy Murr's Old Gold, 1 30 Jerry McKendrick's Market Corner Show, 2 30 Summer Sportsound, 6 00 News, The Floor, 7 30 Nashville Express, 8 30 As Radio 4.

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 645-655 (m) at the following times (GMT):
5.30 am Newdesk. 6.30 Album Time. 7.30 News. 7.50 Twenty-Four Hours. 7.50 From the Weeklies. 7.45 Network UK. 8.00 News. 8.9 Reflections. 8.15 A-Jelly.

Good Snow, 9 News, 9 News
Review, 9 15 The Wood
Financial News, 9 40 Wood
Time Age of Elegance, 10 0 News That
Trod, 7 10 News, 11 9 News
Britain, 11 15 Cricket, 12 15 pm Meridia
11 2 0 Radio Newscast, 12 15 pm Anything
Goes, 12 45 Sports Roundup, 1 0 News
1 9 Twenty Four Hours, 1 30 Network
UK, 1 45 Saturday Special, 2 8 News
Saturday Special, 3 0 Radio Newscast

Comments: 4 15 Saturday Special: 10
News: 5 20 Twenty-Four Hours: 5 30
For the Asking: 0 News: Tomorrow
Child: 5 What's New: 30 People
Politics: 10 News: 10 9 From Our Own
Correspondent: 10 30 New Ideas: 10
Reflections: 10 45 Sports Roundup: 10
News: 10 Commentary: 1 15
11 15
11:15 am News About Britain: 12
Radio Newsweek: 12 30 Baker's

Dozen.	1 0	News: Play of the Week	1 0
Julie.	2 0	News, 2 0	British Press
Review.	2 15	A Land of Song, 2 0	
Sports	Review.	3 0	News, 3 0
About	Britain.	3 15	From Our Own
Correspondent.	4 40	Financial Review	
55	0	News, 5 0	Twenty
Four Hours.	5 45	Letter From America	

7 8 News: Sunday Papers; 7 15 Appeal
Hi Ghar Samajhiye: 7 45 Bells
7 50 Turning Over New Leaves
8 6 News: Sunday Papers.
8 15 Sunday.
8 50 Appeal: The Treloar Trust.
9 6 News: Sunday Papers.
9 15 Letter from America by Allstar

9 30 Morning Service.
10 15 The Archers. Omnibus edition.
11 15 The Colour Supplement. Magazine including contributions from Chris Bonnington, Victor and Marilyn Lowmes.
1 0 The World This Weekend: News

2 0 News: Gardeners' Question
Time. Listeners' postbag.
2 30 Afternoon Play: Touched, by
Stephen Lowe. Three sisters in
the "phony peace" of 1945.
4 0 News: Heritage: working-men's
houses.
4 30 The Living World: Red squirrels

5 0 News; Down Your Way: Gleneagles.
6 0 News; Treasure Islands: Joseph Hone in St Lucia and Martinique.
6 30 A Good Read. Paperback choice.
7 0 XPD. Thriller serial by Len Neighton (7).

7 30 In the Psychiatrist's Chair.
Psychiatrist Dr. R. D. Laing gets a
taste of his own medicine from Dr.
Anthony Clare.

8 5 Law in Action.

8 30 Young Lives: homeless 18-year
olds.

9 0 News: Kidnapped and Catrians.

- 0 0 News: Kidnapped Sikh Cad. 100
- 0 0 News: Antigone at Bradfield
- 1 0 Greek drama at Bradfield Col-
- 1 0 lege, Berkshire.
- 1 0 The Play's the Thing: modern
- 1 0 drama and moral issues.
- 1 15 Inside Parliament.
- 2 2 News: South-east England

6 News, weather, interval
2 33 Shipping forecast .
Close.
HF: 6 45-7 45 am Open University
6-6 9 pm Options.
Wales (340m): 4 0 am Aa Radio 2, 5 54
Radio 4, 8 10 Celebration, 9 50 Land

om America. 9 S All Things Considered
 32 Landmark. 10 2 Roundabout
 York. 11 0 Sound. Unforgettable. 12 2
 1 Wery You. 12 30 First Edition. 12 30
 5 Wery. 2 30 Sunday Spin. 3 30
 Radio 4. 4 30 Sunday
 5 Sunday Spin. 6 15 As Radio 4. 7 30
 8 am As Radio 2.
 Cyms (VHF): 5 55 am Weather: Good
 Radio 4. 6 45 Open University. 7 45

[illegible]

4
 15 Letter from America, 30 A As Radio
 10 Harry Gray's Greeting, Program
 10 Black's Love Cause, 30 A As Radio
 10 Worthy, 30 A As Radio
 12 And Cameron's Sunday Joint, 15
 10 Gerry Davis, 2 30 Prospect, 3 2
 10 The Country, 3 30 The Musical Garden
 10 The John Kerr Interview, 3 0
 10 A As Radio 4, 5 50 Sunday Extra, 5 0
 10 A As Radio 4, 5 50 Sunday Extra, 5 0

World Service

BBC World Service can be received in Western Europe on medium wave 648 kHz 463m at the following times (GMT):
7.30 am Newswatch 5.30 Jazz for the Asking 7.30 News 7.5 Twenty-Four Hours 7.30 From Our Own Correspondents

[illegible]

Radio Newsreel, 3 15 Concert Hall, 4 45
 4 9 Commentary, 4 15 The Light
 4 20 Male, 8 0 News, 8 9 Twenty-Five
 8 15 Sunday Half Hour, 9 0
 9 15 Short Story, 9 15 The Pleasure
 10 0 News, 10 15 The Power of Love, 10 25
 10 30 Book Choice, 10 35 Financial Review, 10 40
 10 40 Reflections, 10 45
 10 45 Roundup, 11 0 News, 11 35 Commentary
 11 35 Letter from America, 11 50
 11 50 The Liberator, 12 0 News, 12 35
 12 35 Hour, 12 45

2 38 Religious Service, 10 News, 4
rue to Terror, 1 45 Merric England
Music, 2 0 News, 2 5 British
Review, 2 0 15 Peoples' Choice, 2 30
News, 3 0 News, 3 9 News about
15 Good Books, 4 45 Hunger, 3
News, Twenty-Four Hours
According of the Week.



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